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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Noel challenges parole board in court

by Ed Walsh

Robert Noel, the man convicted of involuntary manslaughter in connection with the fatal dog-mauling of Diane Whipple in 2001, is in the midst of a court battle over whether state authorities are illegally extending his parole, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned. If Noel is successful, his victory could have far-reaching consequences for other ex-cons who are being kept on parole under similar circumstances.



Robert Noel in 2001

Noel filed an appeal with Solano County Superior Court in November charging that the Board of Prison Terms violated the law by extending his parole beyond 13 months. In court papers, Noel alleged that in order to retain him on parole, three parole board members must have met, voted, and found that there is just cause to continue his parole. Noel said that the meeting was required to take place by mid-October, within 30 days after the one-year anniversary of his release from prison.

Noel argued that the Board of Prison Terms kept him on parole without holding the required hearing, and therefore his parole should be terminated immediately. If Noel's challenge is not successful, he could be kept on parole for another two years. If he wins, he would be released from parole immediately. A Noel victory may also force the parole board, under the threat of further legal challenges, to examine whether others are being kept on parole without a proper hearing.

In September 2003, Noel was paroled to Fairfield, in Solano County, about an hour northeast of San Francisco. He had been in custody since March 2001 when he and his wife, Marjorie Knoller, were arrested in connection with Whipple's mauling death. The arrests came two months after the attack on Whipple, their neighbor. During the couple's trial, prosecutors successfully convinced a jury that Noel and Knoller knew their two Presa Canario dogs were dangerous but did little to mitigate that danger.

A year ago, on New Year's Day 2004, Knoller was paroled to Ventura County, in Southern California. Knoller was with the dogs during the mauling in the hallway of her Pacific Heights apartment building. She maintained that she did everything she could to keep the dogs from attacking Whipple. A jury convicted her

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SF lesbian couple survives tsunami

by Zak Szymanski

San Francisco residents Susan Jewel and Heather Stoneman had very little planned for their three-week tour of Thailand, with the exception of a pre-paid Christmas weekend stay in a bungalow on the island of Koh Phi Phi.

Upon arrival, however, the couple realized how overcrowded the island was with tourists. Although they were denied a refund for the unused time at their bungalow, they decided to leave anyway, catching the last ferry off the island on the afternoon of December 25.

That bungalow – and most of that island – is now gone, wiped out in the mere moments it took for a tsunami to hit during last month's unprecedented series of related natural disasters that struck South Asia and parts of Africa. Nearly 150,000 people are now confirmed dead as a result of an underwater 9.0

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Glad to be home: Heather Stoneman, left, and partner Susan Jewel are smiling now, but the couple had a harrowing experience in Thailand during last month's tsunami.

AIDS Action withdraws from inaugural dinner

by Bob Roehr

In a series of vitriolic blog postings beginning on December 24, progressive journalist Doug Ireland lambasted the AIDS Action Council for joining with the AIDS Responsibility Project in hosting an HIV related presidential inaugural event scheduled for January 20.

The groups acknowledge that the initial e-mail notice of the dinner event, prepared and distributed by a consultant, inaccurately characterized the event as a partisan one and a correction has been made. Because of that mischaracterization, however, AIDS Action has withdrawn from participating in the dinner.

Abner Mason, who formed the AIDS Responsibility Project, chairs the international subcommittee of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and has been one of the most visible and vigorous defenders of the Bush administration's AIDS policy, particularly its international efforts.

Mason acknowledged to AIDS Action Executive Director Marsha Martin that the initial promotional e-mail "incorrectly implied that the dinner was a partisan event. It is not." He apologized for the mistake in an e-mail to Martin on December 29.

"I made a mistake to not review the invitation before it went out," Martin said.

But the damage had been done. That same day the AIDS Action board of directors issued a statement withdrawing from the dinner. "We regret that the e-mail invitation to



PACHA member Abner Mason

the event did not maintain the spirit of nonpartisanship under which AIDS Action had agreed to participate," the board stated.

Mason calls the upcoming presidential inauguration "a huge civic event, not a partisan event" where a number of people wanted "to both celebrate the inauguration, but also make sure that the issue of HIV was front and center ... HIV is the greatest threat to human life in history and our government has a critically important role to play in fighting it, both domestically and globally."

Mason proposed a black-tie dinner for about 150 people (at \$125 a head) during the inauguration as an opportunity to do that in a nonpartisan way. He also hoped to raise money for the AIDS Responsibility Project.

The honorees include Dr. Joe O'Neill, deputy director of the president's international AIDS initiative and former AIDS czar, and Carol Thompson, who currently holds that position.

Mason spoke with Martin about that organization joining the host committee for the event. AIDS Action functions largely as a trade association for most of the na-

tion's AIDS services organizations. It lobbies the administration and Congress on legislation and appropriations.

Martin signed on to what she thought was a nonpartisan event. "If we could do some bridge building, then let's do it," Martin said, hoping to meet some of the new players that she must work with as part of her job.

A consultant hired by Mason sent out a "save the date" e-mail to possible participants touting a "Salute a Second Term" celebration of Bush's re-election and record on HIV.

Ireland was forwarded a copy and on December 24 jumped in with both feet. He wrote on his blog that Martin's agreeing to join the host committee of the event with Mason was "a perfectly scandalous act of betrayal of the AIDS community."

"We clearly would not have put our name on it if it was going to be a celebration of the Bush administration's AIDS policies," Martin said. She said AIDS Action's bipartisanship was exemplified at a September event where it honored both Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tennessee) and Democratic House

Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) for their work on HIV issues.

Mason and Martin are two of the most prominent African Americans working on AIDS policy at the national level. Their critics are not. Some observers have suggested that racism might be an element behind the attacks on them.

When asked if that was possible, Martin responded, "If I raise that, it comes out as Marsha's

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AIDS Action director Marsha Martin

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Polk Street bar closes

by Matthew S. Bajko

The new year brought with it an eviction notice for Club Rendez-Vous, a popular Polk Street gay bar that rang in 2005 with a "closing its doors" party.

At 2 a.m. January 1 Club Rendez-Vous's staff and regulars shut down the bar for the last time. The club's location at 1312 Polk, along with the rest of the block, is slated to be demolished by the First Congregational Church in order to build a new sanctuary on the site.

As for the club, owner David Kapp and a silent business partner are trying to secure a new location, possibly one block away from the bar's current spot. Kapp hopes to finalize lease negotiations by the end of January with plans to reopen the new club by the summer.

"I can't disclose the location on Polk Street but it is very close," Kapp said during an interview at his bar last Thursday, December 30.

For seven years Kapp managed the former Polk Rendez-Vous located in the ground floor of the Leland Building down the street. A fire ripped through the building on December 22, 1998 and the bar suffered severe water damage and closed. Kapp and his partner reopened the bar at 1312 Polk nearly a year later on November 19, 1999.

The space had a long history of being a gay watering hole, once known under the names QT bar, House of Harmony, and the Hacienda. Before opening, Kapp remodeled the interior, adding a balcony and adorning the walls with historic photographs of the neighborhood and San Francisco 49ers memorabilia.

Over the years, fans of the football team gathered to watch games and socialize. The club played host to a weekly drag show on Friday nights and opened its doors to the



Dr. Paul Xavier, left, welcomes in 2005 on New Year's Eve with Club Rendez-Vous co-owner David Kapp.

gay hustlers who worked the street. It sponsored male strip nights, and over the last year with its monthly "Macho" parties, the bar became a magnet for a younger crowd.

With the Internet and the loss of other gay bars along Polk Street, business has suffered, Kapp said. But the Polk Street denizen, having worked at a number of bars on the street since 1982, said it's been a labor of love.

"It's great. I have met a lot of people but it's not as profitable as it used to be. With the Internet people are not going out as much," he said.

Saying goodbye to the first bar he has owned hasn't been easy,

said Kapp. He first learned in 2002 that the church had bought the property and wanted to build on the site. But his final eviction notice didn't come until last month.

"You wouldn't believe. I designed and built everything," he said. "It is hard for a lot of people, not only for me. This is their hangout, their second home."

For that reason, Kapp said he wants to remain in the area and hopes to acquire a bigger space where he can build an open smoking area for patrons and a dance floor. He has until January 31 to pack up the bar and say goodbye one last time.

"It's been fun. We just hope to continue down the block," he said. ▼

HRC begins search process

by Bob Roehr

A 25-member search committee will select the next executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, according to an announcement made Tuesday, January 4. Both the HRC and the HRC Foundation boards of directors must approve the choice. HRC hopes to complete the process by the spring.

One provision that drew instant criticism was that the names of those serving on the search committee would not be made public. HRC reversed course within 24 hours and said the names would be released.

HRC Foundation co-chairs Gwen Baba and Vic Basile will chair the search committee, which, according to HRC, has a diverse membership, including three HRC employees.

San Francisco activist Michael Petrelis quickly reacted to the initial news release with a widely distributed e-mail.

"If only to bring about full transparency, something desperately needed at HRC, Basile and HRC should release the names of those on the search committee," he wrote.

Basile agreed. In a conversation the following day he grudgingly gave credit to Petrelis for sparking the debate. "There is a lot of confidentiality that goes into a process like this," he said. "But it ought to be as transparent as possible." ▼

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Ross Mirkarimi prepares to take office

by Zak Szymanski

The most hotly contested supervisor's race in the November elections took place in one of the city's most progressive districts, virtually assuring that no matter who the victor, the representative of District 5 would take good policy positions on LGBT issues.

Indeed, Green Party candidate Ross Mirkarimi — a 43-year-old Western Addition resident who won with 9,928 first choice votes and received the endorsement of fellow Green and outgoing Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez — ran on a platform that included equality for same-sex couples and nontraditional families. Mirkarimi solidly defeated the second-place candidate, lefty labor and housing activist Robert Haaland, an openly transgender man, who received 5,096 first-choice votes. The ranked choice voting process gave Mirkarimi a total of 13,211 votes to earn him the majority.

Although an openly LGBT candidate was not elected to the district, many LGBT activists said they are optimistic about Mirkarimi's tenure as supervisor.

"Ross is good at keeping people together, which is an underrated quality and a task that's nearly impossible when it comes to the left," said local HIV/AIDS activist Jeff Sheehy, who worked with Mirkarimi on the sunshine ordinance for government and nonprofit accountability as well as the public power campaign. Sheehy endorsed Mirkarimi's candidacy because "he's very straightforward and he isn't into a lot of the personality-based kind of stuff; he's more of a policy wonk and very goal oriented. He'll be a good supervisor. He'll focus on the issues."

Mirkarimi takes office on Saturday, January 8. In the spirit of the late supervisor Harvey Milk, he will kick off the morning with a 9:45 a.m. breakfast at the African American Arts & Culture Complex, 762 Fulton Street, and then walk from his district with his constituents to his noon swearing in at City Hall. He has spent the last several weeks preparing for his new position and has found it "frenetic, chaotic, and exciting all at the same time," he told the Bay Area Reporter.

Mirkarimi's record revolves around left-leaning issues; the 20-year San Francisco resident has led various progressive political campaigns, helping to pass district elections, and to remove the Central Freeway, among other initiatives. He has conducted public health investigations inside Iraq to document the impact of the Gulf War on civilians. He co-founded the California Green Party. Even when working for the district attorney's office as an investigator, his focus was on white-collar crime.

Lefty ideals often approach a variety of issues as relevant to all communities, and in that vein, one of Mirkarimi's goals is to preserve the city budget for HIV/AIDS services, and eventually, reform the system so that a universal health plan may be adopted citywide.

"With the issue of HIV and AIDS, the larger issue overall for the city is we should never compromise any ground on our pub-



Supervisor-elect Ross Mirkarimi

lic health care. I'm very concerned about the outlook of our ability to fund and protect the services that are in place," said Mirkarimi, adding that it now takes longer than it did just a few years ago for uninsured people diagnosed with HIV to receive treatment, an indicator "that is emblematic of the dire crisis we're going to be experiencing citywide."

Adopting universal healthcare, he said, will build on the ideas of Supervisor Tom Ammiano, and will require leadership from other board members.

"It would require a buy-in from all the stakeholders, but I think with leadership we can push it forward. We don't have a healthy city if we don't take care of our people."

At the same time, Mirkarimi said he values individual identities — he comes from an Iranian and Russian family that was a Jewish-Muslim mix and is proud to be the first Iranian American on the Board of Supervisors — and he is open to hearing how LGBT concerns might require specific measures.

"I look forward to meeting with any and all enclaves of the LGBT community so that we together advance the kind of agenda we want," he said. "The LGBT community is a healthy appendage of who I am."

Building bridges

Which is not to say that some

bridges don't need to be mended. Following the District 5 race for supervisor, many in the community were left with the impression that transphobia was a factor in the defeat of Haaland, whose solid experience and long list of endorsements made him a strong contender. Even without directly attributing such prejudices to Haaland's opponents, some LGBT community members say the race still doesn't sit well with them.

"I'm still not completely resolved with how the election results came down and what went on during the election itself," said Michael Goldstein, president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, of which Mirkarimi himself is a member. The club endorsed Haaland in the supervisor's race. Goldstein said he was made aware of certain comments and silences from a variety of people that helped to enforce transphobia during the campaign.

"There's still that tinge of homophobia and transphobia that's not verbally stated from campaigns, but seems to be a part of them, basically because of those campaigns not being able to broach it."

"Ross, of course, is not homophobic or transphobic. But sometimes folks on the left don't understand how their actions — or actions of their supporters — affect their LGBT allies. Something has to happen this year; this discussion has to be opened up, and folks involved in this discussion have to face the fact that there is something going on and it's not necessarily coming from the politic of people not agreeing on issues," Goldstein said.

Goldstein emphasized that Mirkarimi is a "proven progressive" and that he has "high hopes" for his leadership on the board. "He attended the Milk Club holiday party and spent quite a bit of time there, reaching out to the membership and other elected officials. That says something right there," said Goldstein. "I don't see any reason why we shouldn't get behind him and support him."

Mirkarimi said that he was

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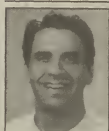
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New HIV support groups in South Bay

compiled by Cynthia Laird

The Neil A. Christie Living Center, a drop-in space for people living with HIV/AIDS in San Jose, has announced several new support groups starting this month. Ray Mueller, project coordinator, said that all center programs are free and "as confidential as we can make it." Generally, the support groups run for eight weeks.

The Claro como el Agua-A support group for HIV-positive Latinos is held Fridays from 12:30 to 2 p.m., starting January 7.

A group for HIV-positive persons who have a problem with crystal meth is held Saturdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m., starting

January 8.

The Str8 Talk session, a psycho-educational group for HIV-positive persons who identify as straight is held Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., starting January 12.

The New to HIV group is held Mondays from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., starting January 24.

Stress Busters, which discusses ways to cope with HIV, is held Mondays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

This group started January 4 and runs through January 25.

Mueller also noted that the center continues to hold its regular groups and events. These include

a HIV-positive men's support group on Thursdays, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.; AA for positives on Tuesdays, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; HIV 101 on Wednesdays from 7 to

7:45 p.m.; and yoga on Mondays from 6 to 7 p.m.

The center is located at 1252 Park Avenue in San Jose. For more information, call (408) 971-0852 or e-mail info@thelivingcenter.org.

Kwanzaa at the DeFrank Center

LGBT people and their families are invited to celebrate Kwanzaa at the Billy DeFrank Center in San Jose Saturday, January 8 from 1 to 3 p.m. The day will include craft activities and learning about the Kwanzaa holiday. Snacks and drinks will be provided. The DeFrank Center is located at 938 The Alameda and organizers request people to RSVP to (409) 293-3040, ext. 119 by Friday, January 7.

HIV council hosts community meeting

The San Francisco HIV Health Services Planning Council will present a community meeting Wednesday, January 12 starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center, 730 Polk Street, 4th floor. The planning council, also known as the CARE Council, prioritizes federal Ryan White CARE funds, and is soliciting input from the API community. It will schedule additional meetings focusing on other communities throughout the year. Members noted that the CARE Act will be up for reauthorization this year and the meeting will include a discussion of various issues associated with that process, as well as a presentation of how the council works and membership opportunities on the council. For more information, call Jack Newby at Shanti at (415) 674-4777.

HRC committee seeks members

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Advisory Committee of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission is seeking new members to serve on one of the body's most active committees. One of four standing committees, the LGBTAC identifies and addresses the issues and concerns of queer San Franciscans and advises the commission on these issues.

The LGBTAC is looking for members who are community activists knowledgeable and skilled in such areas as AIDS/HIV, anti-violence, civil rights, class, disability, diversity, education, gender, health, and women's, senior, and youth issues.

Applicants must be residents of San Francisco and must make a firm commitment to attend committee meetings, which are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. and to spend additional time on special projects. Interested persons should send a letter detailing their interest, areas of expertise, and any other qualities they could bring to the group.

Correspondence must be received by the commission by 5 p.m. Thursday, January 13 and should be addressed to: Janel Wong, SF Human Rights Commission, 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 800, San Francisco, CA 94102-6033. The fax is (415) 431-5764 and e-mail is janel.wong@sfgov.com.

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Chicago YMCA flap not TG related, sources say

by Zak Szymanski

In the wake of the recent controversy surrounding a transgender event at a Chicago YMCA, some parents gave transphobic statements to the media, and the security guard who worked the event told a radio show that "It was like they didn't want the kids to see the gay people at all."

But the ensuing overhaul of the club's staff and policies had nothing to do with the patrons being transgender, according to YMCA officials and transgender groups alike.

According to news reports, a transgender group had rented out the New City YMCA for a fashion show and dance from the evening of December 18 to the morning of December 19. Shortly after 6 a.m., fashion show participants encountered elementary and junior high school kids and their parents, who had arrived for a swim meet. The two parties clashed, with some of the parents reportedly using "sexual slurs," according to the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Security and police had to be called to intervene.

"They have no idea what transgender is, and I wouldn't want that exposure forced on them," Yeun Pearrelli, a parent of young children, told the *Sun-Times*.

New City YMCA's acting direc-



Central YMCA in San Francisco

tor was fired as a result of the clash, and the programming director resigned. The YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago then adopted a policy prohibiting overnight rentals by adult groups and requiring that licensed security be hired for events. The Chicago headquarters will also have to approve rental contracts to ensure that they are more youth-friendly.

Since then, many people associated with the YMCA and with area transgender groups have issued statements calling the matter a simple "scheduling conflict" that brought scantily-clad adults and children together, a situation that

would raise boundary questions regardless of the identity of the adults involved.

"They booked two parties that overlapped, time wise. Considering the location of the Y they must have known what the transgendered group was about. It was described as a 'Paris is Burning' type of venue," Katie Thomas, vice president of the Chicago Gender Society, said in an e-mail to the *Bay Area Reporter*, adding that the LGBT community is hoping the state of Illinois will pass an all-inclusive equal rights bill in the next week. "There is so much good going on in Chicago regarding the LGBT community, yet a few people still try to create a tempest in a teapot ... it was a non-event."

But the incident would not have erupted as it did, according to Chicago YMCA President and CEO Stephen Cole, had it not been for the "inappropriate" and "adult" behavior of the fashion show attendees.

"The facts are, there was inappropriate behavior," Cole told the B.A.R. "There was drinking and smoking, both of which are prohibited. And there was evidence of sexual exchanges in the locker rooms, none of which should happen in a YMCA regardless if you're gay or straight."

The media, said Cole, "overblew" the transgender piece of the story, and "many parents

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Cynthia Laird

ARTS EDITOR

Roberto Friedman

POLITICAL EDITOR

Wayne Friday

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Matthew S. Bajko
Mark Mardon
Zak Szymanski

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Tavo Amador • Victoria A. Brownworth
Philip Campbell • Dale Carpenter • Aaron J. Cohen
Kevin Davis • Richard Dadds • Eric Ganther
Glen Helfand • Liz Highleyman • Joe E. Jeffreys
Brandon Judell • Robert Julian • John F. Karr
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Adrian Roberts

AD PRODUCTION & DESIGN

Sean Greene

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jane Philomen Cleland
Darlene/PhotoGraphics
Marc Geller
Rick Gerharter

ILLUSTRATORS & CARTOONISTS

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Christine Smith

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LEGAL COUNSEL

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National Gay Newspaper Guild



Bay Area Reporter

395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
415.861.5019 • 415.861.7230
<http://www.ebar.com>News Editor • barpaper@aol.comArts Editor • bararts@aol.comAdvertising • baradv@aol.com

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OPEN FORUM

Reinforcing stereotypes

Last week's decision by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that upheld the firing of a female casino worker because she refused to wear makeup sends a chilling message to women everywhere, and continues the sex stereotypes that many in the LGBT community are working to end. The worker, Darlene Jespersen, lost her job at Harrah's casino in Reno, because her employer decided several years ago to implement a grooming policy that is inherently discriminatory. Under the "Personal Best" policy, female employees are required to wear their hair "teased, curled, or styled," and wear "foundation/concealer and/or face powder, as well as blush and mascara," nail polish, and lipstick. Men, on the other hand, are required only to keep their hair and fingernails trimmed.

Jespersen, who had worked at the Harrah's Reno sports bar for almost 20 years and received outstanding job evaluations, was fired. She said that wearing makeup made her feel degraded and undermined her credibility when she had to deal with unruly customers, according to a story in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. A casino spokesman, Gary Thompson, said Harrah's offered to rehire Jespersen without makeup, but she declined and took her case to court. Jennifer Pizer, Jespersen's attorney, explained that her client did not want to be the only exception to the policy and also wanted compensation for her many months of unemployment after her firing.

In rejecting Jespersen's suit, two of the three judges on the panel ruled that she had not shown that the "feminine standards" were significantly more burdensome than those imposed on men. We disagree. Clearly, male employees at Harrah's are not required to spend their money and time on cosmetics in the way women are under this policy. In essence, the judges ruled that women must make themselves more attractive in a way that is not required of men.

GenderPAC, which had worked with Jespersen during the initial phase of her legal battle, was extremely disappointed with the decision.

"This ruling would be right at home in the 19th century," said Executive Director Riki Wilchins in a statement. "Women long ago won the right to be judged on the quality of their work, not whether they conform to some

outdated standard of feminine attractiveness."

We in the LGBT community know all too well what it's like to be subjected to stereotypes. For gay men, such stereotyping often continues on television programs, even *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, which exploits stereotypes for entertainment. The upside of the show (at least in the beginning) was groundbreaking in that it showed gay and straight men working together in a spirit of cooperation and helped to expose mainstream America to gay personalities. The downside was the stereotyping, which bothered many in the community: the flamboyant fashionista, the home decorator, the food expert, and the grooming guru, all of which were portrayed as humorous. The LGBT community has a variety of celebrated gender expressions, and they all deserve to be shown with respect, not as the butt of heterosexual jokes.

Sex stereotyping even affects children. In Wednesday's *New York Times* story about the opening of the 109th Congress, reporter Sheryl Gay Stolberg wrote about the fami-

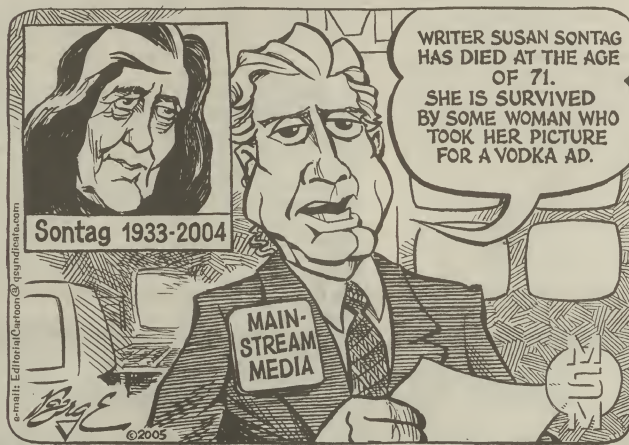
lies of Congress members who attended swearing-in festivities in the Capitol: "Little girls in velvet party dresses and patent leather shoes clicked their heels along the marble floors; little boys in sport coats contemplated how they might scale the statues of Statuary Hall." Such writing simply reinforces so-called male and female roles:

Who's to say no girls wanted to try scaling the statues? Who's to say no boys longed to wear patent leather shoes (or even velvet dresses)? The point is that the description of children wandering the halls of Congress assumed frilly for the girls, masculine for the boys.

Equal rights for women have come a long way since this country was founded as women eventually won the right to vote and are no longer considered the legal "property" of their husbands. But the feminine stereotype of women continues to be the ideal of what straight men want – and that is not equal.

Darlene Jespersen is now working three part-time jobs to make ends meet. That is not equal either. ▼

Editorial



SF must fight for AIDS funding

by Kevin Burns

Hallelujah! The AIDS crisis is over! That's the only explanation for the nationwide cuts in government funding for HIV/AIDS services. The stereotype in the national media is that most people with AIDS have access to good health-care and a strong support network. The reality is far different: rates of the disease are skyrocketing in minority and immigrant communities, many of which don't have culturally appropriate services available. Of even greater concern, many San Franciscans living with HIV/AIDS are homeless or marginally housed and live in poverty with little or no income.

We all know that there is no cure, and just because some people are living longer today than they did a decade ago does not mean that support is no longer needed to assist people facing AIDS. Unfortunately, the city of San Francisco today finds itself in a position of having to slash its budget, and funding for HIV-related services is in jeopardy.

If the proposed cuts go through, organizations that reach out to underserved communities will have to cut back – or eliminate – their client-service activities. Now is the time for all of us to make our voice heard and fight to restore money that goes directly to providing vital ancillary services. Without this link, many people living with AIDS will remain unable to connect with – or remain connected to – their healthcare regimens, resulting in disease progression, an increased number of emergency-room visits, and dramatic increases in healthcare costs to the city.

Not-for-profit groups play a critical role in reaching underserved individuals in the city. Many of these organizations provide a vital link between public health departments and people with HIV/AIDS in neighborhoods and communities that are often ignored, or where people fighting the disease are stigmatized for religious or cultural reasons. Without strong support from governments at all levels, this kind of outreach will wither away and create a true health crisis in the years ahead.

The good news is that primary care activities, such as medical bills and hospitalization, aren't on the chopping block. What are at risk are programs – many of which are run by grassroots organizations – that provide support for seriously ill people who don't have a safety net. Groups that prepare and deliver hot meals are at risk of losing funding. Also threatened are organizations that provide information for non-English speakers, rides to and from medical appointments, and in-home/one-on-one assistance with simple tasks that many of us are fortunate to take for granted, such as grocery shopping, paying bills, picking up prescriptions, and house cleaning. Without basic services like these, it often becomes impossible to adhere to a medical regimen, and people face greater risk of serious illness or death because they cannot manage the logistics of their care.

Fifteen years ago I started volunteering at Shanti because I believed that the organization filled a critical need by providing services that helped people seriously ill with

AIDS, cancer, and other illnesses. Today, as Shanti's executive director, I have the opportunity to see first-hand how we make a difference by offering the kinds of care that no one else does. If funding for the services we provide is slashed we will have to reduce the level of support we can provide. And we're not the only ones affected – other community-based organizations providing much needed services are expected to lose funding, and several may have to shut their doors, leaving many San Franciscans without the tools they need to survive.

Many of us feel powerless against AIDS, but we now have an opportunity to make a real difference in our own community. Our local leaders have the ability to make the threatened services a top priority and find a way to restore funding. In the coming weeks Mayor Gavin Newsom will make catastrophic budget cuts that will gut the support services available to people with AIDS. Now is the time to call your supervisor and the mayor and let her or him know that AIDS is still a crisis, and that cuts to health-care funding must be stopped. ▼

Kevin Burns is executive director of Shanti, which provides assistance to San Franciscans living with HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening conditions. For more information visit www.shanti.org. To contact your supervisor, visit www.sfgov.org/site/bdsuprvr_index.asp. To contact Mayor Gavin Newsom, visit www.sfgov.org/site/mayor_index.asp.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Condo conversion is shortsighted

I read the article in the December 30 *Bay Area Reporter* about the new TIC coalition ["New TIC coalition, legislation emerges"], and observed with interest Mike Sullivan's irrational delusion that TICs create home ownership opportunities for the very people that are being evicted. If the number of renters is indeed going down, it seems that might be because they can't afford to live in San Francisco anymore after being evicted.

The TIC and condo conversion route is shortsighted because, while the first round of owners may get barely affordable units, once they are converted to condos and resold, they will continue to become more and more expensive. Meanwhile, the limited resource of rent-controlled units (limited because state law restricts rent control to pre-1979 buildings) will continue to be depleted. It's not a sustainable model.

Our city's future should not be determined by the minority of people who, like Plan C and TIC coalition members, can afford to buy into TICs. The majority of San Franciscans are still renters, and while some of them may harbor illusions that they will be able to afford TICs, the reality is that most will not.

There are certainly more socially responsible housing solutions – for instance, creating queer community land trusts – which would maintain affordability while allowing residents to build limited equity. Let's work on plans that result in long-term community stability rather than spiraling housing costs.

Larry Roberts
San Francisco

TICs will convert more quickly

As the director of the AIDS Housing Alliance and the policy entrepreneur behind Supervisor Chris Daly's successful effort to protect people with AIDS, seniors, and disabled people from eviction (that, with the support of Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier, passed the Board of Supervisors without opposition), I wanted to respond to the recent *B.A.R.* article quoting our friend Mike Sullivan of Plan C as well as a member of the newly formed special interest TIC coalition.

Our legislation accomplishes its goal in a positive manner by expediting condo conversion for people who do not evict these vulnerable classes of people. Contrary to the impression that is being put forward by Mike and the TIC lobbying group, TIC owners will convert to condos much more quickly under our legislation than they did before if they do not evict these groups of people. To me, it is a simple matter of math. Sixty-five percent of the Ellis evictions used last year to form TICs target these groups of people. Because we are now removing these high numbers of potential future evictions from competing in the same annual condo lottery pool as the "good" people that do not evict, the number of buildings competing is reduced, thereby raising chances of winning the lottery more quickly.

It goes something like this. Let's say there were 1,000 buildings competing for the 200 condo slots one year. Everybody has a 1 in 5 chance of winning regardless of how many little old ladies they kicked out on the street. Now we move the 650 buildings that targeted "protected" tenants for eviction into the separate lottery that we created for those kinds of people. That leaves 350 buildings competing for the 175 VIP slots we have reserved for people who do not evict vulnerable people. The outcome: a 1 in 2 chance of winning the lottery.

If one's goal is to promote condo ownership, then this legislation is definitely moving in the right direction while being sophisticated enough not to subscribe to the barbaric notion that people with AIDS, seniors, disabled, and other catastrophically-ill people need to be thrown to the wolves in order to achieve homeownership for the privileged 9 percent of San Franciscans who can afford it.

I find it troubling that the two gay men quoted readily admit that TIC evictions are overwhelmingly targeting gay men disabled from AIDS who live in the Castro while glossing over this very important fact by attempting to spin some sort of positive notion that new home ownership opportunities are being created. I keep hearing in my head, "Dying people were kicked out on the street, but I made a killing when I flipped the building as condos."

The AIDS Housing Alliance of San Francisco supports and promotes home ownership. In fact, we conducted the world's first HIV home ownership seminar. Home ownership must become more affordable. However, I'm confused by the quote from the TIC activist that acknowledges the market reality that restrictions on condo conversions make TIC ownership more affordable and that increasing the condo limit would make ownership even less affordable. He then puts forward a notion to remove this tool for affordability.

This isn't a logically consistent position. If limiting condo conversions makes homeownership more affordable for those trying to break into the market, then we should keep the restrictions. It is inconsistent

to advocate for increased affordability on the one hand then advocate for removing affordability measures with the other. The only reason for such a position is self-interested personal enrichment. Advocate for increased affordability when you are looking to buy and then advocate for removing affordability when you want to sell. This is wise personal finances but is not sound public policy.

I'm concerned that the measures these groups are proposing would weaken protecting vulnerable people from eviction and would return to the bad old days when speculators actually were rewarded with increased profit margins when they targeted seniors, disabled and catastrophically ill people for eviction.

Instead, I call on our community members to unite behind a movement to create more home ownership opportunities for all that does not require evicting people from the homes they already have. For instance, Supervisor Daly led the charge to create thousands of new home ownership opportunities in his district and negotiated unprecedented levels of hundreds of below-market-rate condos as part of inclusionary zoning requirements. These brand new units are half to one-fourth the cost of the TIC units others are promoting. Normal people can actually own them – and no one gets evicted.

Brian Basinger, Director
AIDS Housing Alliance
San Francisco

Not enough money for handgun bans

The 1982 attempt by the San Francisco supervisors to ban handguns failed, due to the state's firearm preemption law.

It is tragic that they feel they have the money for the expensive litigation that will ensure from this doomed to failure ban.

Yet, they have to close the busy Tom Waddell health clinic, and make other serious budget cuts.

Tom Boyer
San Francisco



Mailstrom

What a year

As the "Year of the Queer" came to an unsettled end and a new year begins, the gay community, to whatever extent it exists in our fractured world, must stand its ground and follow Jesse Jackson's mantra: "Keep hope alive." Despite the self-assured assurances of many, the United States will not soon permit gay marriage.

Oh, but what a grand year it was. Led by California native Justice Anthony Kennedy, the U.S. Supreme Court started a crescendo of hope in June 2003 when it struck down a Texas sodomy law that criminalized the private sexual conduct of people such as John Lawrence and his lover, Tyrone Gardner. This decision was just days after the Court of Appeal in Ontario, Canada, ruled that it was unconstitutional to restrict the term "marriage" to a man and a woman. The highest court in our nation has said that homosexuals enjoy a right to privacy under the due process clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, just like everybody else.

When the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts reaffirmed its November 2003 gay marriage decision on February 4, it was a shot heard around the world. Conventional wisdom among homosexuals was that second-class family law citizenship for gays was about to end. It wasn't. The tug-of-war will not be won in legislatures and courts. It will be won with sheer determination, stubborn resistance, and focused unity by the gay community.

We loved February, when San Francisco's supportive mayor ordered licenses to be issued to homosexuals. Of course this wasn't going to last long. And the California Supreme Court is not going to return the euphoria by finding that restricting marriage to homosexuals denies equal protection to gays. One more time – the highest court in the state is not going to give gays the right to marriage. Not this time around.

By the time Tom Weikle and Joe Rogers became the first married couple in the country on May 17 (in Massachusetts), the tide had already turned. With tepid support from the Democrats and hysteria from the Republicans, it is clear that gays are not going to be allowed full club membership just yet. When the voters in every state, where asked, turned down marriage equality for gays, it became clear that the year of the queer would be repeated in 2005.

So, for now, the country is more at ease having homosexuals remain in a reduced class category. Gay marriage in this country is far away. But let's keep our heads high, our feet firmly planted on the gains we've made, and resolute in our determination that either with the legal imprimatur of the legislatures and the courts or without it, the homosexual community will not tolerate anything less than full equality.

From the City Hall of San Francisco to Massachusetts, we will fight the homos' battles in the land and courts until we see our rights and freedom waving like the flag on Castro Street.

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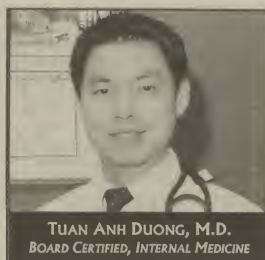


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Baby, it's a new year

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

This is the time of year when newspaper columnists want to just phone in their column. It's the end of the holiday season, and you might rather have just one more Amaretto sour than focus on the keyboard long enough to put your thoughts into your computer. This may be why one sees so many "year in review" columns at the end of a year.

I am not above this temptation – but I think I just might be able to give you more than just a simple review of the last 12 months. You the reader have gone through the same year I have, after all, and I feel the compulsion to at least give you a little hope as we turn our calendars yet again to a fresh, new year.

For myself, I come away from 2004 with acknowledging some of the bad times – but in my personal life I know I came away with the good far outweighing the bad.

I lost my grandmother in 2004. I won't get into all the specifics here, but I was definitely sorry to lose her. In that loss, however, I regained the rest of my family.

I had the opportunity to work as an activist in Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and even Iowa City. Further, I was presented an award from the V-Day organization, naming me a "Vagina Warrior," and was featured in several local newspapers.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance – which is about the only life I have for several weeks in autumn – doubled in size with over 212 events in eight countries.

I have to say this: in spite of some positive things for me personally, 2004 had plenty of rough spots that affect us all. The Bush victory and 11 states writing discrimination into their constitutions is likely the biggest dark spot on 2004. I hasten to add, of course, that the issue of marriage rights affects transgender people just as it affects the rest of the LGB community. It may even affect us a bit more, given how quickly these defense of marriage laws have invalidated the marriage rights of transgender people who may have felt they had been in the clear.

There's been plenty more of note in the last year. Aside from having to watch the Hollywood

yet again release movies like *White Chicks* – or reality programs like *He's A Lady* – 2004 was the year when the Gwen Araujo murder trial ended up with a jury unable to determine the guilt of her killers thanks largely to a defense claiming that Araujo's murder was more her fault than that of the men who beat, hit, and strangled her to death.

Of course, we've also lost many more in 2004 due to murder and hate. I hate to say it, but that's nearly constant.

Things have not even been rosy for transgender folks within the larger LGBT community. It was only a few months ago that the Lambda Literary Foundation included a transphobic (and homophobic) book – *The Man Who Would Be Queen* – as a nominee in its "Transgender/Genderqueer" category. LLF finally did drop the book, but only after initially trying to defend its position by saying that the author likely did not "set out to intentionally do harm to gay men and transsexuals."

The Human Rights Campaign also remained a difficult partner to the transgender community, with an August vote on HRC's support of a trans-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act only coming after a sustained protest. With the recent sacking of its president, who's to say that decision won't also end up tossed out its front door?

Not everything has been bad. This 2004 Summer Olympics was the first such event to have a policy allowing for the participation of transsexual athletes. This was a move that surprised many, including yours truly.

The year also saw the premiere of the first all-transgender cast production of the *Vagina Monologues* in a production that included a new piece by playwright Eve Ensler. It was a bigger change than it may initially seem, given that Ensler had initially denounced the inclusion of a transgender-specific monologue as being akin to being "politically

correct."

In 2004 we saw yet more locations approve transgender anti-discrimination protections, or pass transgender-inclusive hate crime ordinances. The biggest of these was easily Great Britain, which finally began to assure the rights of their transgender residents.

But what of 2005?

Naturally, we will need to face the second term of a president who has actively sought to deny equal rights, and who has included such as part of his agenda in the next four years. We will still face a long, uphill battle for marriage equality in a country that

is still more than a bit resistant to the concept.

There will be another Gwen Araujo trial to face, with the same defenses planned. If history is any indication, we will likely see many more transgender people lost due to hate violence, and many others will face discrimination in all its forms.

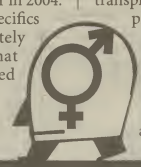
We will still have many things to face, and I doubt many of them will be exactly pleasant. Why, we could even see more bad trans-themed comedies come out of Hollywood.

The thing is, I'm always hopeful. I think back to where gay issues were when I was a child, or where trans issues have been in the last several years. If something isn't yet right, one can always fight to change it. As we've seen over the decades, more rights tend to be gained than lost – over time.

So I'm willing to give this bright, shiny new year a chance, and see what's around the bend for us. I hope you'll join me. ▼



Christine Smith



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News Briefs

◀ page 4

City College career fair

City College of San Francisco will recruit for a number of faculty positions at its first-ever career fair to be held Thursday, January 13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Radisson Miyako Hotel, 1625 Post Street, in San Francisco. The college will be recruiting for full-time, part-time, and long-term substitute positions.

A number of departments will be represented at the event, including automotive/trade skills, behavioral sciences, biological sciences, business, CalWORKS, chemistry, computer networking and information technology, continuing student counseling, culinary arts and hospitality studies, film production, GLBT studies, health science, mathematics, music, photography, physical education, and English as a second language.

Representatives from the college's human resources department will be on site to assist applicants by answering questions about available employment opportunities as well as the hiring process.

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That's a wrap

by Katharine Holland

Besides all of the monkey business going on in the bars and on the dance floors in the Castro, there is a lot of real business going on, too. Castro Street in the Castro. How gay can you get? It used to be our private haven. Now, our little district is growing up. The Castro's theater, shopping, and restaurants are a destination for people from all over the city and the Bay Area. It is not unusual to see straight couples strolling, holding hands. Some chain stores are moving in and sometimes the mom and pop stores are going out of business. In a city that can be quite foggy, the Castro is hot.

Business Briefs will appear once a month to fill you in on some of these business activities. A large focus will be on the Castro, however, LGBT businesses all over the city should feel free to contact me about their newsworthy events.

Holiday registers have a cheerful ring for Castro businesses

"Our holiday sales were right on target. We planned conservatively and set our goal to be the same as last year," said **Under One Roof's** interim Executive Director **Howard Thornton**. "Sales had fallen after the election. We were worried for a minute. Then everything picked up and we ended the year not sitting on inventory and that is a great feeling."

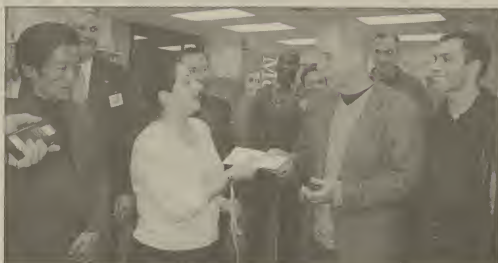
Most people know Under One Roof as the nonprofit store to go to for gifts that range from tacky to beautiful at 549 Castro Street. To attract shoppers, the store extended business hours and took out an advertisement in the *Bay Area Reporter* to let people know. It doubled the amount of volunteers staffing the store, provided gift-wrapping, and hosted several events to draw people to the store. Customers were invited to the annual kick-off holiday season party in November, a special candle lighting in the store's window on World AIDS Day, and two signings of the Bare Chest Calendar by the models. **Levis** and **McKesson** also invited the boutique to set up satellite stores in its building lobbies for a day or two.

The store experimented by expanding its inventory of children's gifts and this seemed to work well. "We saw a lot of mothers with kids in strollers shopping," said Thornton. He added that they also sold out of several Chronicle Books items including the book *So You Want to be a Canadian?* No surprise there.

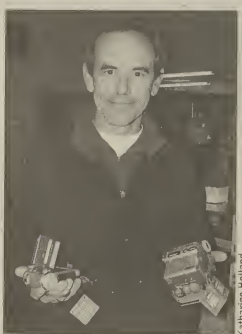
"We surpassed our goals this season," said **Chris Judish**, closing manager at **Injeanious**, at 432 Castro Street. Big sellers were underwear – the store stocks 13 brands – and watches. To grab shoppers' attention, the store added a sandwich board on the sidewalk and offered continuous sales throughout the month. Judish said that many people seemed to be shopping for themselves, too. I'm glad to hear that I wasn't the only one doing this!

Household name for nearly 50 years closes

Fred Bishop always welcomed new technology during the past 47 years at **Eber Electronics**. Sadly, the Internet's ease and large discounts on cameras, CD players,



Ximena Delgado, left, senior vice president of community marketing development with Bank of America, gives a check for \$10,000 to Project Open Hand Executive Director Tom Nolan.



Fred Bishop closed up his electronics shop.

and stereo equipment lured his loyal customers away until the store at 2355 Market Street between Castro and Noe streets was no longer profitable. The store officially closed December 31, affecting six full-time staff.

"It's a thing called 'make money' and we weren't doing it," Bishop said. After the dot-com crash, shoppers were interested in price

more than product, he explained. September 11 made his customer base of the upper middle class disappear. In its heyday, the store employed 15 people.

A real estate firm is rumored to be interested in leasing the approximately 10,000 square feet of commercial space. Meanwhile, Bishop is looking for a job for the first time in 30 years.

BoFA gives holiday cheer

It is unusual for large corporations to be in tune with their local neighborhoods. That is probably why so many people accepted the invitation to **Bank of America's** Castro branch's holiday party last month at the corner of 18th and Castro streets.

"Our goal was to bring together people from many organizations in the community to mingle," said mortgage account executive and party organizer **Mark Rhoades**. Nearly 300 people attended the event, including Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco), city Supervisor **Bevan Dufty**, **Liam Mayclem** of **KRON**, and our own first lady **Donna Sachet** to name a few.

It was a happy holiday for two charities that night. LGBT Community Center Executive Director **Thom Lynch** picked up a check for \$15,000 and \$10,000 went to Project Open Hand's Executive Director **Tom Nolan**, who was delighted to "come to the bank and actually get money."

Special thanks to the Castro businesses who donated catering to the event: **Le Bon Gâteau** (a

new patisserie at 476 Castro Street), **Firewood**, **AG Ferrari Foods**, and **Joseph Schmidt Confections**.

Comings and goings

Greg Bronstein is planning to open a new tiki-style restaurant at the former **Hamburger Mary's** location at 12th and Folsom in April. This venture marks the first time Bronstein has opened a business outside of the Castro. His current businesses include **The Bar on Castro** and **Lime** restaurant in the Castro.

I'm sure the neighborhood is mourning the closing of **Coopers** gourmet grocery store at the corner of Sanchez and Duboce streets. We have not heard what will be going into this space. I loved to stop in to enjoy the European ambience and pick up cheese, cookies, and other delights. This store will be missed.

GGBA: The first LGBT chamber of commerce

Are you a business owner and want to do more business with people who are gay? Of course you do! Everyone who is in business in San Francisco who is gay- or lesbian-friendly should be a member of the **Golden Gate Business Association**. It is the first LGBT chamber of commerce. I personally find it so nice to have a warm welcome at the monthly mixers. I love my GGBA family! It is fun doing business with people you know and trust. Visit www.ggba.org for more information or call GGBA at (415) 865-5545.

Join us at Bank of America on Tuesday, January 18 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. for the monthly GGBA Make Contacts mixer at 345 Montgomery Street at California Street (above the branch). This event is free to GGBA members and \$10 for non-members. I hope to see you there.

GGBA transitions

Jim Cherry, owner of **Cherry Business Solutions**, stepped down as president of the GGBA board and **Jerry Becerra** of **Pennbrook Insurance Services Inc.** was voted in as the 2005 president. **Madison Kilpatrick, III**, financial adviser with **Morgan Stanley**, was elected vice president.

Newly elected board members include: **Kathleen Amendola**, owner of **Sales Solutions**; **Paul Frentos** of **Hotel Adagio**; **Katharine Holland**, realtor with **Coldwell Banker**; **Doug McLaughlin** of **Wells Fargo's** Castro branch; and **Annamarie Yasilli** of the staffing agency **Core**

page 17 ►

Political editor Wayne Friday is taking some well-deserved time off.

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Make that a shot

by Jane Warner

Midnight Sun bar, 4067 18th, December 18, 1:50 p.m.: A man sat down at the bar and ordered a beer. When the bartender brought him the beverage the man calmly looked at him and stated, "I don't have any money." The bartender took the glass away, telling the man he couldn't have it. "Is that right?" the man replied, and lifted up his shirt revealing a small silver semiautomatic handgun in his waistband. Without saying anything else, the armed suspect—described as an Hispanic male, 30-35 years old, 5 feet 10 inches and 175 pounds, wearing a black and white jacket and blue jeans—got up and walked out of the bar in an unknown direction. The bartender called 911 but responding officers could not find the suspect.

Blind spot

Near Buena Vista Park, December 22, 1:30 a.m.: A man leaving Trax bar started to walk to his home a few blocks away. As he approached Buena Vista Park, he heard footsteps run up behind him, then felt a sharp blow to the side of his head, which knocked him unconscious. He next remembered walking into his apartment, his face and shirt covered in blood from two cuts above his left

eye. The victim checked his pockets and realized his wallet and cell phone were still there. Although the suspect did not say anything, the victim reported to police that he believes the attack was a gay bashing, as he knew of two other men who were recently attacked near the park after leaving Trax. Anyone with information should call (415) 558-5411.

Busted

Starbucks, 2020 Market, December 31, 7:41 p.m.:

A security guard noticed a man walking into Starbucks who fit the description of a suspect who recently has been robbing coffee shops in the city. The guard notified three other guards to back him up. Unaware that guards were watching, the suspect approached the counter and told the clerk, "This is a robbery," revealing a small handgun in the waistband of his pants.

Fearing for his life, the clerk opened the register and gave the robber about \$200. The suspect grabbed the money and ran out of the store into the waiting arms of the security officers. The 33-year-old suspect was taken into custody, and handed over to police. The handgun recovered from the suspect's waistband was plastic.

Happy New Year

19th and Diamond, December 31, 2:56 a.m.: Two men driving

around Collingwood Park slowed to talk to a man standing on the corner. One of the men called out, "What are you doing tonight?" Apparently offended by the remark, the man replied, "Who the fuck you talking to?" A heated verbal exchange ensued, and one of the men got out of the car. The man on the street grabbed an open can of paint thinner, throwing it in the man's face as well as his car. Feeling a stinging sensation to his eyes, the victim picked up a beer bottle to defend himself, but the bottle broke, which cut his hand. The assailant—described as an Hispanic male, 25-35, 5 feet 11 inches and 160 pounds—ran east-bound on 19th and got into a yellow taxi, which sped out of sight.

Web of deceit

3500 block of 19th, December 31, 5:20 p.m.: A woman reported to police that she was a possible victim of identity theft after she received an e-mail from what she thought was Washington Mutual. The e-mail looked official and asked for her Social Security number as well as other personal information in order to access their Web site. The woman entered her information as requested but nothing happened. Suspicious, the woman contacted Washington Mutual, who told her the site was fraudulent and recommended she contact police. The woman closed her bank account, issued fraudulent alert notifications to all her creditors, and filed a police report. ▼

Court victories in Arkansas, Montana

by Bob Roehr

The sting of defeat from all of the antigay state marriage amendments was soothed a bit with year-end decisions by state courts in Arkansas and Montana affirming particular rights of gay Americans. The decisions, however, were narrowly tailored and not sweeping affirmations of equal rights.

In Arkansas, Pulaski County Circuit Judge Timothy Fox ruled that the state Child Welfare Agency Review Board erred in 1999 when it issued a blanket ban

on gays and lesbians serving as foster parents. The board had not been granted the broad authority to regulate "public morality."

"The testimony and evidence overwhelmingly showed that there was no rational relationship between the ... blanket exclusion [of gays] and the health, safety and welfare of the foster children," Fox wrote in his December 29 decision.

Rita Sklar, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Arkansas, which brought the lawsuit, said, "Throughout the case, the state has relied on ugly stereotypes to deny children in the Arkansas foster care system the chance of having the widest possible pool of foster families available to them."

"We're pleased that the court saw through these arguments and has recognized that gay and lesbian people can provide homes just as loving and stable as anyone else's," Sklar added.

The state plans to appeal, but some state legislators are not waiting for that outcome. They will introduce legislation to give the board the required legal authority to continue to prohibit gays from becoming foster parents.

Last November Arkansas voted 75 to 25 percent to amend the state constitution to prohibit gay marriage.

Montana

The Montana Supreme Court declared on December 30 that the public universities must provide

health insurance to the domestic partners of their gay and lesbian employees.

The primary legal issue centered on "common law" marriage. The university had created a mechanism whereby heterosexual couples that have lived together for a period of time and declared their domestic responsibilities to each other by filing a document with the university, would be covered under the health insurance plan.

The lawsuit argued that denying those benefits to homosexual couples in a similar common law domicile was discriminatory, and the court agreed. The majority opinion took pains to explain that they were not ruling on the issue of gay marriage.

"We are ecstatic about this decision," said Carol Snetsinger one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit brought by the ACLU of Montana. "It's been a long wait, and now we're thrilled that gay and lesbian employees of the university system will be able to insure their families. I was moved to tears when I heard the decision. It's an incredible way to end this year."

The university must now either grant insurance to same-sex couples, or completely do away with granting those benefits to non-married couples.

In California, the Domestic Partner Rights and Responsibilities Act of 2003 took effect on New Year's Day. It grants to same-sex couples many, though not all, of the state benefits and responsibilities associated with marriage. ▼

Ex-casino worker loses court case

by Dennis Conkin

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund will review for possible appeal last week's 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that a Harrah's Casino worker did not suffer "undo burdens" — a test for evaluating gender based discrimination — because she was required to wear makeup and lipstick as part of a casino management effort to "sex-up" the look of its workers.

The former popular Harrah's sports bartender, Darlene Jespersen, was not available for comment, according to Lambda Legal spokesman Eric Ferrero, who told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the legal group would probably decide in the next two weeks what further steps it may take in the case. An appeal would go to the U.S. Supreme Court since it was a case in federal court.

"We are deeply surprised and disappointed," said attorney Jennifer Pfizer, senior legal counsel in Lambda's Los Angeles-based western regional office. Pfizer said in a statement that the December 28 ruling "misapplies" legal precedents and makes "burdensome sex-based rules" by employers legal despite protections of Title

VII of the Civil Rights Act.

In affirming the earlier Nevada District Court ruling that tossed out Jespersen's case, the appeals court said that Jespersen failed to introduce evidence raising a triable issue of fact whether the Harrah's grooming code for male and female employees imposed unequal burdens on male and female workers.

Male workers were required to have short hair, clipped fingernails, and black shoes under the dress code, called Harrah's Personal Best Policy.

Harrah's required Jespersen to wear makeup to work. She refused because the cost — measured in time, money, and personal dignity — was too high. Harrah's fired her.

Only one judge on the three-member panel dissented in the 2-1 decision.

"In fact Jespersen easily satisfied her burden," Judge Sidney Thomas wrote in his dissent. "A reasonable fact finder could conclude that Harrah's makeup burden on women, that Jespersen was fired for failure to conform to a sex stereotype, or both. Darlene Jespersen should be allowed to present her case to a jury."

Jespersen was required to wear mascara, blush, and lipstick in March 2000 after she had nearly

20 years of employment with the casino. Although female beverage servers were encouraged to wear makeup in the 1980s and 1990s, the makeup rule was formally instituted by a corporate image consultant.


Jespersen argued that the makeup was too costly and created tangible burdens on women that men did not share, that it made her a sex object and made her feel "degraded, exposed and violated," and hampered her job effectiveness.

Riki Wilchins, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based GenderPAC, criticized the decision. GenderPAC had worked with Jespersen early on during her court fight.

"We think requiring women to wear foundation makeup and nail polish is sex stereotyping at its worst," Wilchins told the *B.A.R.* "Women should be judged on the quality of their work."

Wilchins pointed out that numerous corporations now include gender expression and gender identity in their equal employment opportunity policies, and said it showed many companies are not in tune with the court's decision.

"Corporate America is moving away from decisions like this," she said. ▼



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Fun in the sun: Hanging out on Sebastian beach, Fort Lauderdale's unofficial official gay beach.

Fort Lauderdale: Florida's gay hot spot

by Ed Walsh

I'll admit it. I was on a sadistic streak last month.

I had just checked in to the Grand Resort hotel in Fort Lauderdale. It was about 11 p.m. My flight from San Francisco landed nearly three hours earlier but thanks to bad directions from the inappropriately named EZ Rent-A-Car company, the 15-minute drive to the hotel in the Fort Lauderdale beach area took me on an unexpected tour of Broward County.

But I digress.

As a gentle ocean breeze flowed through my room, I hooked up my laptop. I checked my e-mails. I surfed some Bay Area news sites. I saw that it was cold and rainy there. I was delighted I was not home but that apparently wasn't enough.

I had to call a friend in San Francisco to hear first-hand how horrible the weather was and tell him how nice it was in Fort Lauderdale. I did the same thing to a relative in Boston. A second friend in San Francisco was fortunate enough not to be home when I called but I continued my torment by leaving him a message describing in nauseating detail the warm ocean breeze.

Undoubtedly Fort Lauderdale's weather and word of mouth from visitors like me helped it become Florida's most popular gay destination and one of the premier gay resort areas in the world. Greater Fort Lauderdale boasts 30 gay guesthouses and hotels and about as many gay bars and clubs. And the city's renaissance shows no signs of dying down.

The owner of the Royal Palms Resort, Richard Gray, got the ball rolling when he opened his hotel 15 years ago. The infamous gay Marlin Beach Hotel shut down six months after Gray opened, leaving him to pioneer the gay market on his own. Concurrently, the city was anxious to get away from the rowdy college break crowd that caused it so much trouble in the past, so it was receptive to efforts by Gray and others to mine the gay market. Several of Gray's guests saw the potential in what he did for Fort Lauderdale and the gay world eventually beat a path to their hotels' doors. That market has been very good to the gay proprietors in return. Gray estimates property values are six times what they were when he began in the late 1980s.

Getting there

There are no nonstop flights between the Bay Area and Fort Lauderdale Hollywood International Airport but if you really want to fly nonstop, you can fly into Miami's airport and take the 45-minute drive to Fort Lauderdale. That's versus the 15-minute trip from the Fort Lauderdale airport. But keep in mind, Miami's airport can get very congested, so the trip could take you even longer than 45 minutes. Round-trip airfare from the Bay Area starts at about \$240 on Southwest, and up to \$300 or more on other airlines.

Getting around

If you plan to go out clubbing or see the sights in Fort Lauderdale, a rental car is recommended. Most resorts are not within walking distance of the clubs and the region's most popular gay-friendly restaurants.

On the other hand, many of the resorts are within walking distance of the beach, so if you are content to divide yourself between the resort and beach, you will be fine without a car.

Nightlife

Many of the Fort Lauderdale area's most popular clubs are in Wilton Manors, about 4 miles northwest of Fort Lauderdale Beach. The bars, Georgie's Alibi and its neighbor on Wilton Drive, Boom, pack 'em in seven days a week. The Coliseum and Copa clubs draw huge dance crowds on weekends.

Popular bars for lesbians include Beach Betty's in Dania, southeast of the Fort Lauderdale airport, Cloud Nine Lounge, southwest of the airport in Davie, and the New Moon, which just recently opened on Wilton Drive.

The mega-bathhouse and gym, Club Fort Lauderdale, is one of the most upscale and popular establishments of its kind in the country and is a popular destination for visitors and locals alike.

Accommodations

Fort Lauderdale's 30 gay resorts offer something for just about every budget and taste. Room rates range from \$59 at Richard's Inn to \$449 for the most expensive suite at Pineapple Point. There are no lesbian-specific resorts in Fort Lauderdale but several are lesbian-friendly. But even the most lesbian-friendly of the gay resorts see less than a dozen lesbian guests each year, according to Gray, who estimates that his

Royal Palms hosts about eight lesbian visitors each year.

Fort Lauderdale's largest resort in terms of area is the Grand Resort and Spa, with 33 units on more than an acre of land. It's just a couple of blocks from the beach. Just across from the Grand is the neighboring Elysium resort, a little smaller in area but with a few more rooms.

The aforementioned Royal Palms is regarded as one of the most upscale resorts in the Fort Lauderdale area. Just outside Wilton Manors, the New Zealand House is a good example of a small upscale resort that was completely upgraded and remodeled but managed to maintain its old Florida charm. The Coconut Cove is the closest resort to the beach and is known for its old Key West feel.

The sights

Fort Lauderdale's unofficially official gay beach is Sebastian's Beach, the section of the Fort Lauderdale beach where Sebastian Street ends. If you're not staying within walking distance, you can park for \$5 in the city parking lot just west of the beach. Popular excursions include the Jungle Queen Riverboat cruise through Fort Lauderdale's labyrinth of canals, by the yachts and homes of some of the richest CEOs in the world.

The shopping mecca, Sawgrass Mills, features about 300 designer outlets and is one of Florida's most visited destinations. If nature is your thing, be sure to check out one of the Everglades tours or the Butterfly World park.

The food

Some of the more popular gay-friendly restaurants include Hamburger Mary's, Hi-Life Café, Galanga, Georgie's Alibi, Dorothy's Deli, and Flamingo's. ▼

For more information

Fort Lauderdale Visitors and Convention Bureau gay guide: www.sunny.org/rainbow or call 800-22-SUNNY.

Rainbow Carpet Lodging and Hospitality Alliance's gay guide: SouthFloridaFun.com, or pick up a copy of their great gay brochure when you get in town, or call (954) 567-0766.

For gay maps of gay Greater Fort Lauderdale, including some great driving trips: www.gaymap.info.

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Reyataz does not cure HIV or help prevent passing HIV to others.

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Do not take Reyataz if you are taking the following medicines: ergot medicines, Versed®, Halcion®, Orap®, Propulsid®, Camptosar®, Crixivan®, Mevacor®, Zocor®, rifampin, St. John's wort, AcipHex®, Nexium®, Prevacid®, Prilosec® or Protonix®. Do not use Viagra®, Levitra®, Cialis®, or Vfend® while you are taking Reyataz without first speaking with your healthcare provider. **This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations you are taking or plan to take with your healthcare provider.**

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects or conditions, including the following:

- **A change in the way your heart beats** may occur and could be a symptom of a heart problem.
- **Diabetes and high blood sugar** may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.
- **Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes** may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).
- **Rash** (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking Reyataz, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started, and usually goes away within two weeks with no change in treatment.
- **If you have liver disease**, including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like Reyataz.
- **Some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

Common side effects of Reyataz taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: nausea, headache, stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, depression, fever, dizziness, trouble sleeping, numbness, and tingling or burning of hands or feet.

You should take Reyataz once daily with food (a meal or snack). You should take Reyataz and your other anti-HIV medicines exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.

Please see important information about REYATAZ on the next page.

Once Daily REYATAZ is a protease inhibitor (PI) that is taken in HIV combination therapy.

- ◆ Can help raise your T-cells
- ◆ Can help lower your viral load to undetectable*
- ◆ Low chance of diarrhea (shown in clinical trials)†
- ◆ Two pills taken once-a-day (with a snack or meal)‡

* Undetectable is defined as a viral load of less than 400 or 50 copies/mL (depending on the test used).

† REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 1-3% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea.

‡ People who have taken anti-HIV medicines before usually take REYATAZ with ritonavir once daily as part of their HIV combination therapy.

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PATIENT INFORMATION

REYATAZ® (RAY-ah-taz)(generic name = **atazanavir sulfate**) Capsules

Rx ONLY

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with REYATAZ. Read the section "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?"

Read the Patient Information that comes with REYATAZ before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet provides a summary about REYATAZ and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is REYATAZ?

REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). REYATAZ is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV infection destroys CD4+ (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, AIDS develops. REYATAZ helps to block HIV protease, an enzyme that is needed for the HIV virus to multiply. REYATAZ may lower the amount of HIV in your blood, help your body keep its supply of CD4+ (T) cells, and reduce the risk of death and illness associated with HIV.

Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?

REYATAZ does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. At present there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections. It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking REYATAZ.

REYATAZ does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take REYATAZ?**Do not take REYATAZ if you:**

- are taking certain medicines. (See "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?") Serious life-threatening side effects or death may happen. Before you take REYATAZ, tell your healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking or planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients. The active ingredient is atazanavir sulfate. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in REYATAZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you think you have had an allergic reaction to any of these ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ?**Tell your healthcare provider:**

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if REYATAZ can harm your unborn baby. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- If you are breast-feeding. You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- If you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- If you have diabetes. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- If you have hemophilia. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- About all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" and "Who should not take REYATAZ?" Some medicines can cause serious side effects if taken with REYATAZ.

How should I take REYATAZ?

- Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you.
 - For adults who have never taken anti-HIV medicines before, the usual dose is 400 mg (two 200-mg capsules) once daily taken with food.
 - For adults who have taken anti-HIV medicines in the past, the usual dose is 300 mg (two 150-mg capsules) plus 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food.
- Your dose will depend on your liver function and on the other anti-HIV medicines that you are taking. REYATAZ is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you are taking REYATAZ with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) or with VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), you should also be taking NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- Always take REYATAZ with food (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. Do not open the capsules. Take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- If you are taking antacids or VIDE® (didanosine) Chewable/Dispersible Buffered Tablets, take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider. It is important to stay under a healthcare provider's care while taking REYATAZ.
- When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- If you miss a dose of REYATAZ, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.
- If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ, call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

Can children take REYATAZ?

REYATAZ has not been fully studied in children under 16 years of age. REYATAZ should not be used in babies under the age of 3 months.

What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?

The following list of side effects is not complete. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:

- rash (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started. Rashes usually go away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment. Tell your healthcare provider if rash occurs.
- yellowing of the skin or eyes. These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Call your healthcare provider if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow. Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, it is important to tell your healthcare provider promptly if they occur.
- a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- if you have liver disease including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.

- some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.
- changes in body fat. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?

Do not take REYATAZ if you take the following medicines (not all brands may be listed; tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take). REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when used with these medicines.

- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as CAFERGOT®, MIGRANAL®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, METHERGINE®, and others (used for migraine headaches).
- HALCION® (triazolam, used for insomnia).
- VERSED® (midazolam, used for sedation).
- ORAP® (pimozide, used for Tourette's disorder).
- PROPULSID® (cisapride, used for certain stomach problems).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because of possible serious side effects:

- CAMPTOSAR® (irinotecan, used for cancer).
- CRIVIAN® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and CRIVIAN sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood.
- Cholesterol-lowering medicines MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood. This may lead to an increased HIV viral load. Resistance to REYATAZ or cross-resistance to other HIV medicines may develop:

- Rifampin (also known as RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®, RIFATER®, or RIFAMATE®, used for tuberculosis).
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort.
- "Proton-pump inhibitors" used for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as Aciphex® (rabeprazole), NEXIUM® (esomeprazole), PREVACID® (lansoprazole), PRILOSEC® (omeprazole), or PROTONIX® (pantoprazole).

Do not take the following medicines if you are taking REYATAZ and NORVIR® together:

- VFEND® (voriconazole).

The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely:

- CIALIS® (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil). REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- LIPTOR® (atorvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.
- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN®, QUINIDEX®, and others).
- VASCO® (bedrilid, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL® (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN® (desipramine), SINEQUAN® (doxepin), SURMONTIL® (trimipramine), TOFRANIL® (imipramine), or VIVACTIL® (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE® or NEORAL® (cyclosporine), RAPAMUNE® (sirolimus), or PROGRAF® (tacrolimus).

The following medicines may require a change in the dose or dose schedule of either REYATAZ or the other medicine:

- FORTOVASE®, INVIRASE® (saquinavir).
- NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- SUSTIVA® (efavirenz).
- VIDE® (didanosine) or antacids.
- VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin).
- Calcium channel blockers such as CARDIZEM® or TIAZAC® (diltiazem), COVERA-HS® or ISOPTIN SR® (verapamil) and others.
- BIAXIN® (clarithromycin).
- Medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPCID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), or ZANTAC® (ranitidine).

Women who use birth control pills or "the patch" should choose a different kind of contraception. REYATAZ may affect the safety and effectiveness of birth control pills or the patch. Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing an effective contraceptive.

Remember:

1. Know all the medicines you take.
2. Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.
3. Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider.

How should I store REYATAZ?

- Store REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) Capsules at room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C). Do not store this medicine in a damp place such as a bathroom medicine cabinet or near the kitchen sink.
- Keep your medicine in a tightly closed container.
- Throw away REYATAZ when it is outdated or no longer needed by flushing it down the toilet or pouring it down the sink.

General information about REYATAZ

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use REYATAZ for another condition. Do not give REYATAZ to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. Keep REYATAZ and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.


This summary does not include everything there is to know about REYATAZ. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Remember, no written summary can replace careful discussion with your healthcare provider. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or you can call 1-800-426-7644.

What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?

Active Ingredient: atazanavir sulfate

Inactive Ingredients: Crospovidone, lactose monohydrate (milk sugar), magnesium stearate, gelatin, FD&C Blue #2, and titanium dioxide.

* VIDE® is a registered trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. COUMADIN® and SUSTIVA® are registered trademarks of Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharma Company. Other brands listed are the trademarks of their respective owners and are not trademarks of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company.

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This Patient Information Leaflet has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

F1-B0001B-07-04

Based on package insert dated July 2004, 1168954A2

Revised July 2004

Officials propose change in Castro bar permit process

by Matthew S. Bajko

Trends define nightlife, and as such, restaurants and bars constantly revamp their nightly offerings to stay fresh and inject new verve into longtime establishments. For Castro area businesses, this has meant the addition of DJs, drag shows, and other forms of live entertainment over the years.

Yet according to city officials, at least a half dozen businesses have done so without first acquiring the permits needed to become a "place of entertainment." City codes require such establishments to go before the Planning Commission, and since its creation in 2003, the Entertainment Commission in order to acquire the proper permit, which costs \$1,400.

Prior to the formation of the Entertainment Commission, when the police department controlled the permit process, often a blind eye was given to bars without the necessary permit if no one lodged a complaint. Those business owners who did go through the process found it to be time-consuming and overly burdensome.

Now, at the request of the Entertainment Commission, Supervisor Bevan Dufty has introduced proposed legislation that would streamline the process by which existing bars could obtain the necessary city approval and continue to operate as they do currently.

"They have been allowed to operate in that capacity for a very long time," said Bob Davis, executive director of the Entertainment Commission. "In reviewing our records and regulations we felt that they were not meeting the definition of just say a straight bar but were falling under the category of place of entertainment. The evolution took many years but they were allowed to operate."

"What we want is not to shut them down but bring them into compliance," added Davis.

According to Dufty, when the new restaurant Lime opened last year, owner Greg Bronstein applied for a permit in order to have a DJ spin. As they reviewed Bronstein's application, entertainment commissioners realized other restaurants and bars in the area, which also had DJs, did not have the proper permits.

"This would not exempt anyone coming in for a new DJ use. All this is doing is just handling

those establishments that already had DJs and had them for long periods of time," said Dufty about the legislation. "This is not requiring them to go through a dual process but a single process for a permit."

Under the proposal, any bar that was in regular operation as an entertainment use in the Castro/Upper Market neighborhood commercial districts prior to January 1, 2004 could obtain a place of entertainment permit from the Entertainment Commission.

The existing bar would not have to also obtain conditional use authorization from the Planning Commission. Instead of holding public hearings at both the Entertainment Commission and the Planning Commission, there would be one hearing before the Entertainment Commission at which the public could express its views on the place of entertainment operation.

This exception from the conditional use requirement would not apply if (1) the bar had filed an application for a conditional use prior to introduction of the proposed legislation on December 14, 2004 or (2) a conditional use was denied within 12 months prior to

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Terry D. Gaunt 1948 — 2004

Terry passed quietly from this life on December 4, 2004 at his San Francisco apartment, after many years of living with HIV and AIDS. He was an employee of Pacific Bell for many years before retiring on disability in 1994. Terry was born in Indiana, and is survived by sisters, brothers, and a son, Patrick, all of whom live back there. His beloved cat, Tiffany, has been adopted by his one time partner and best friend, David Harris, of Half Moon Bay, California. David can be reached at (650) 726-3406.

Mark Allen Lepczyk 1966 — 2004



Mark's parents, Stan and Dee Lepczyk, and his brother and sister of Fairfield, California.

Mark Allen Lepczyk was born June 9, 1966 in Fairfield. He was employed by Shell Vacations as concierge at Sheraton Fisherman's Wharf and Holiday Inn Fisherman's Wharf and was named

Mark Lepczyk, 38, died on December 30, 2004 in Seton hospital after a long battle with AIDS and liver disease. He is survived by his beloved partner of 15 years, Dana D. Johnson of San Francisco, and

Concierge of the year 2004 by his peers at Shell Vacations. Mark's ashes will be spread in the ocean in Hawaii where he lived for two years with his partner.

Mark's wishes were for us to "Celebrate his Life" instead of mourn him. There will be a gathering of family and friends on Sunday, January 9, 2005 at 704 Via Palo Linda, Grass Valley, California. Please contact Dana Johnson for info: 415-725-5023.

Timothy John Murphy



A former executive for Bank of America's investment services, Tim Murphy died December 11, 2004 in his San Francisco home following a 10-year battle with cancer. He was 42.

A native of Fremont, Tim moved to the Bay Area following his graduation from San Jose State University. He joined the Santa Clara District Office of Bank of America in 1993 as a sales support officer. He became a vice president and assistant market executive in 1999, a position he held until October 2002, when he went on medical leave.

"Tim was a unique and inspirational person," said his job supervisor, Linda S. Shelby. "Lives were changed because of knowing him."

A Memorial Service is set for January 8 at 1 p.m. in St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, 500 De Haro St., San Francisco.

One friend, Sara Conlon of Boston, said Tim had an amazing effect on her: "T.J. will remain in my life forever. His love of life, generosity, positive attitude and strength put an eternal stamp on my heart."

Some friendships evolved from work and some developed in the gymnasium where Tim worked out twice a day. Other friends were made during the 10 years he played in the San Francisco Gay Softball League as a player and player-coach.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (Colage), 3543 18th St. #17, San Francisco, CA 94110.

Mark Wooten Scott August 16, 1952 — December 20, 2004

Mark Scott died peacefully at his home in Palm Springs of AIDS-related causes at the age of 53. A native of San



Antonio, Texas, he moved to San Francisco in 1974 and lived for many years in a house on Pine Street where he met some of his many life-long friends. He continued pursuing his career as an actor and artist, in

Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Guerneville and Palm Springs. Mark was a kind, gentle man who always acted and reacted in honest and compassionate ways. His love of animals and his awareness of the beauty of life were inspirations to all who knew him.

He will be missed by his many friends throughout California, especially his life-long partner and care-giver in Palm Springs, Theron Puccinelli, as well as his extended San Francisco family the "Pine Clones" (Dick, Alex, David B., Chris, Micky, Nancy, Doyle, Mar, and Terry). He is survived by family in San Antonio: his mother, Patti Scott, his father, Frank Scott, his step-mother, Helen Scott, and his loving brothers, Frank, Eddie, Dale and sister Debbie Garza.

A Texas memorial service for family is scheduled in San Antonio, January 15th.

A California memorial service is planned for the spring. Please contact Theron (760-774-2177) for further information.

Mark suggested that donations can be made to PAWS AND HEART, 74854 Velie Way, Suite #7, Palm Desert, California, 92260; tel. no. (760) 836-1406.

Fortunately for all of us, Mark lives on through his outstanding artwork and his care for all creatures, big and small. He goes with love.

Louis Voorhees



Louis Voorhees passed away unexpectedly due to complications from cancer on November 19, 2004. Louis was an artist whose beautiful light fixtures grace many homes and businesses throughout

the Bay Area and beyond. He is remembered as a true and loyal friend to many and an avid gardener with a special love of orchids. A celebration of Louis's life will be held at the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park on Sunday, January 9 at 2:00 p.m. Please call 415-626-0923 more information.



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Carl Stein, PA-C

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Memorial Sunday for Camerawork's Marnie Gillett

by Cynthia Laird

A public memorial for SF Camerawork Executive Director Marnie Gillett will be held Sunday, January 9. Ms. Gillett died December 3 at her home in San Francisco following a lengthy battle with breast cancer. She was 51.

Ms. Gillett served as executive director of the SF Camerawork gallery for 20 years. She earned nationwide respect both for her unique curatorial vision and her strength as an administrator, said board president Thomas V. Meyer in a letter to gallery supporters that announced Ms. Gillett's death.

"Her approach set a sterling example of a nonprofit organization's ability to be fiscally responsible while retaining its experimental and communitarian roots," Meyer wrote.

Meyer added that Ms. Gillett was "pivotal" in helping to put San Francisco on the international map as an arts community leading the exploration of the photographic medium.

"Although a diplomat, Marnie was not afraid of controversy, as was evident by her presentation of a lecture by Robert Mapplethorpe at Camerawork in the 1980s, several years before he became a central figure in the debate concerning federal funding for the arts,"



Marnie Gillett

Meyer stated.

Ms. Gillett's leadership kept SF Camerawork alive through the dot-com rent boom that de-

stroyed other arts groups, and the gallery moved twice, including to its current location at 1246 Polson Street, after its own annual rent went from \$30,000 to \$200,000 at the height of the dot-com madness, according to an obituary in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Ms. Gillett is survived by her life partner, Clare Wren; her mother, Jean Gillett Brookfield of Fort Myers, Florida; and three brothers.

Sunday's memorial takes place at 2 p.m. in the Green Room of the San Francisco War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, in San Francisco. In lieu of flowers, Wren has asked that memorial donations be made to SF Camerawork for the establishment of the Marnie Gillett Curatorial Fund and/or the Osher Center for Integrative Medicine in San Francisco. ▼

Business Briefs

◀ page 9

Talent Group.

Until next month

Did anyone see the little children staring in open-mouthed awe at the bare-chested Santa Claus on the corner of Market and Castro a few weeks ago? Despite all of the

changes, some things in the Castro remain the same. ▼

Katharine Holland is a realtor with Coldwell Banker Real Estate, specializing in residential and investment properties in San Francisco. You can reach her at khsf@att.net, (415) 447-8849, or www.katharineholland.com.

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On cue

by Jim Provenzano

Hundreds of pool players will be gathering in San Francisco this weekend for the 50th West Coast Challenge, held twice each year.

Teams and individuals from the Bay Area, Los Angeles, Long Beach, and San Diego pocket billiards organizations will compete in the statewide competition, held twice each year.

At the West Coast Challenge, each city sends its championship team, eight open individual competitors, four women's finalists, and a Hi-Lo (Scotch Doubles) team to compete in the three-day tournament.

The San Francisco Pool Association will host this historic event in the grand ballroom at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, 8th and Market streets, January 7-9. Spectators are welcome to see some of the best gentleman's amateur pool in the state. Admission is free.

While the tournament is not exclusively for GLBT players, the local pool and pocket billiards group has a long tradition in the community, stemming from gay bar sponsorships and competi-

Bernie King of the SFPA said that about 170 Bay Area GLBT and straight players will compete, and are part of the two annual seasons of local competition.

"Spring season is coming up, and we want to give everybody a chance to play," he said. "They then get automatically sanctioned in the league."

King has played the game since he was a child, with a pool-playing father encouraging his skills in his hometown of Baltimore, Maryland.

After moving to the Bay Area in 1988, he joined the local league, and said that he made many friends. Unfortunately, the GLBT pool community has lost more than 80 members through the AIDS pandemic, half its membership, King said.

There have been uplifting years as well, though, King added, like the recent nationals tournament held in Las Vegas, where, he said, some straight competitors "didn't like getting beat by a bunch of gay guys who kissed each other."

SFPA's early history in now-gone taverns continues with several team sponsors that include a bevy of current bars, including Buzz-9, The Cafe, The Cinch, The Eagle, Judi's Place, The Lone Star, Marlena's, Mix, The Pilsner, Rich's



San Francisco Pool Association President Gerlie Mendoza racks 'em up.

Club 93, Skip's Tavern, and The Transfer.

King said that such sponsorships are crucial to keep the league going, in a city where public pool tables are disappearing.

"In the 1980s, there were so many bars that had pool tables, you could just go almost anywhere and play," said King. "Now, we have to use a big venue for our tournaments."

Chalkers and The Great Entertainer, two large billiard halls, have closed. Slovenian Hall on Potrero had been used, but is too far away to accommodate visiting players. Jillian's in the Sony Metreon, and Family

Billiards on Geary Street are only a couple of the remaining pool halls.

The Ramada was the site of previous tournaments, and offers plenty of room for spectators.

History

The WCC began as a match between Los Angeles Hub team and San Francisco's Rainbow Cattle Company at the Los Angeles Trouper's Hall in August 1978.

Then known as the Inter-city Challenge, a single match race to nine games, Los Angeles won 9-2. A traveling trophy was engraved to memorialize the event.

A few years later, an agreement was made to expand the competition to a tri-city playoff. The contest was named The West Coast Challenge and given the Roman numeral I to indicate a continuing event. Competitions between California leagues continued for several years.

The next major occurrence in the evolution of the event was the introduction of the women's competition at WCC XVI in Long

Beach in 1988. Former San Franciscan Lauren Ward was among the first winners.

At the 21st WCC, the organization adopted the rules of the Billiard Congress of America for competition. Several formatting changes helped the competition grow. This weekend's event will include four categories:

- Team tournament, with four teams of up to six players (one team from each city) in a double-elimination format;

- Open individuals tournament, with eight players from each city in a race-to-3 double-elimination format;

- Women's individuals tournament, with four women players from each city in a race-to-3 double-elimination format; and

- Hi-Lo tournament, with two individuals from each city in a race-to-3 double-elimination format.

The event is hosted, on a rotating basis, between the four participating leagues. Policies governing both the administration of the competition and rules of play are set by a 12-member West Coast Challenge Committee comprised of three delegates from each participating city.

King said, "Most matches are early in the morning, going into the evening, but most should be over by 8 p.m."

Final matches will be Sunday morning and completed by late afternoon, which accommodates visiting players, who, King added, "want to win their games and then go out and sightsee."

Anyone interested in joining the SFPA can visit the Web site at www.sfpapool.org, or leave a message on the hotline (415) 563-7665 (415-JOE-POOL). Sign-ups for the spring 2005 season are in mid-January. ▼

Ringin' in 2005



Seyma Adik, left, and Mo Adik share a kiss as the 2005 begins at the annual New Year's Eve "Dancin' on Top of the World" party hosted by Bay Area Community of Women and the National Center for Lesbian Rights. The event, held at The Carnelian Room in San Francisco, drew hundreds of lesbians and their friends.

Jane Hollman/Cleland

Noel

◀ page 1

tacking Whipple. A jury convicted her of second-degree murder but a judge later tossed out the conviction, leaving her with the same conviction as her husband, involuntary manslaughter.

In response to Noel's parole challenge, a spokesman for the Board of Prison Terms referred the B.A.R. to the office of state Attorney General Bill Lockyer. Lockyer spokesman Nathan Barankin said that the attorney general's office has not seen any paperwork on the case yet. He added that they probably would not deal with the case until and if a judge issues a decision requir-

ing the state to show just cause why Noel should be kept on parole.

Noel filed his parole challenge with Solano County Superior Court on November 1, 2004. Just over a month later, the county sent the case to San Francisco Superior Court. Solano County Judge Allan P. Carter ruled that "the proper venue for the petition is in the county of judgment." The San Francisco courts have yet to take any action on the appeal.

As a condition of his parole, Noel is forbidden to go to San Francisco or have any contact with any of Whipple's family or friends or with Sharon Smith, Whipple's partner at the time. Noel declined comment on his parole challenge. ▼

Ross Mirkarimi

◀ page 3

made aware of elements of transphobia during the campaign and agreed with Goldstein that they were "very subtle."

For his part, Mirkarimi said he noticed that the reported transphobia was coming from both heterosexuals as well as members of the LGBT community and "I was processing that. It was a concern to me. If I had heard something directly I would have immediately extinguished it."

He added that "the left tends to react election to election and does not necessarily erect a process to mediate impasses when good people on the same side wind up running against each other."

Overall, however, he said he believes the race was positive, with all the leading candidates rejecting negativity as part of their cam-

paigns. Part of this, he said, can be attributed to instant runoff voting, a system he hopes to sell statewide.

Once in office, Mirkarimi thinks he can help "to sell" a lot of things: failed bond measures for affordable housing that weren't always worded carefully or marketed correctly; getting downtown businesses to pay for public services in relation to their impact on them; funding treatment on demand; and even decriminalizing prostitution.

San Francisco, he said, is traditionally one step ahead of other progressive cities. On certain issues like medical marijuana, "other cities are beginning to come up to speed to where we are," he said. "Now it's time to go further." ▼

For a full schedule of Mirkarimi's swearing-in events, visit www.rossforsupervisor.org.

YMCA

◀ page 5

called me, upset that the press seemed to imply that they were homophobic, which they weren't."

Cole added that the YMCA of Chicago "embraces all people with diverse backgrounds."

San Francisco YMCA President Chuck Collins agreed, calling Cole a "very inclusive" man.

"I don't think what happened in Chicago had anything to do with people being transgender. Kids and adults were in the same space when they shouldn't have been," said Collins, who added

that such a scenario would not happen at San Francisco's YMCA facilities, mainly because all events are already supervised and scheduled appropriately.

Collins added that San Franciscans "have a strong sense of inclusion in our community. It's important to us, and important to me as a black man. It's the beauty of San Francisco and part of the reason people want to be a part of a community like ours."

Collins said the Chicago controversy could be used as "an opportunity to teach, for people to get to know each other better, and to take down some of those barriers." ▼

Bar permits

◀ page 15

the effective date of the legislation.

"This piece of legislation has a sunset clause so it does not remain in effect. It gives businesses a window of about a year, so when it is approved it will be set for one year then sunset," said Davis.

On December 17, 2004, the clerk of the Board of Supervisors referred the proposed legislation to the Planning Department for an environmental evaluation, public hearing, and Planning Commission recommendation. The Planning Commission has 90 days to make its recommendation before the Board of Supervisors may act on the legislation.

Some Castro residents object to the change, fearing their concerns will not be addressed, and have posted anonymous fliers in the neighborhood protesting the legislation. In the past, residents concerned about noise levels at bars have used the process to their advantage. Bars with outdoor

patio areas have either found themselves limited in how they can use such spaces or been banned entirely from allowing patrons outside.

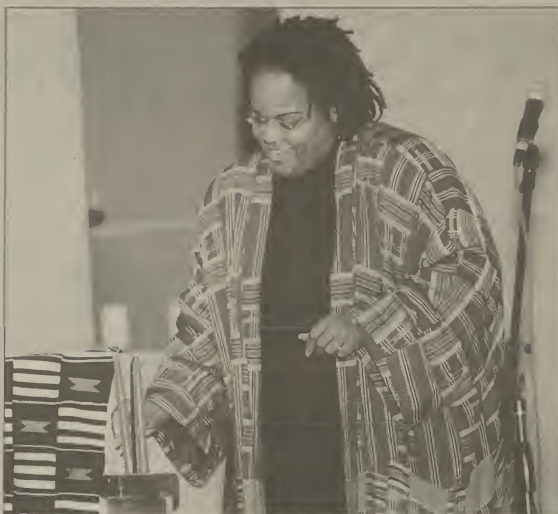
If the legislation is approved, the Entertainment Commission will still be required to publicly notice its hearings so residents can voice any concerns. And the city's building, electrical, planning, and health departments, as well as the police and fire departments, would still need to sign off on the permit for each business.

"There will still be hearings for each and every establishment. We feel the public is not in anyway being slighted," said Davis.

Duffy added that anyone who has a grievance with a business would still have avenues to lodge a complaint with city officials.

"The reality is the city attorney's office runs a very strong code enforcement program. If anybody has an issue with how a business is operating, whether it's a nightclub, corner store or restaurant," they should contact that office, Duffy said. ▼

Kwanzaa celebrated



Jane Philomen Cleveland

Doretha Williams-Flournoy, executive director of Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, prepares to light candles at the Kwanzaa celebration held at the San Francisco Public Library December 28. The holiday, which runs from December 26 through January 1, is a celebration of family, community, and culture within the African American community. Last week's event was sponsored by Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action, Black Rap, and the LGBT Pride Committee.

AIDS Action

◀ page 1

playing the race card."

Mason replied, "A lot of people have said to me over the past week that there is an underlying element of that here. I just hope that they are wrong. I hope that our community is beyond that."

Prior to his work in the Bush administration, Mason served in the administration of former Massachusetts Republican Governors Paul Cellucci and Jane Swift. He also was heavily involved with Log Cabin Republicans, at one time heading up its Massachusetts chapter and then their now-defunct national federation of chapters. He currently lives in Los Angeles where he is a consultant.

Martin has led AIDS Action for almost three years. Prior to that she was a special assistant on HIV issues to Donna Shalala, secretary of Health and Human Services during the Clinton administration.

Ideology and politics may in fact be playing a greater role in the

controversy. Among the criticisms of Mason is that he accepts money from pharmaceutical companies for his organization. He also questions use of U.S. funds to purchase generic AIDS drugs in Africa before the Food and Drug Administration has certified them as safe and effective.

Mason says that is hypocritical. "I challenge you to find an AIDS organization that does not get support from the pharmaceutical industry. *Poz* magazine would not exist if it were not for the pharmaceutical industry."

"I think that is appropriate as a way of giving back to the community. I would be upset with the pharmaceuticals if they didn't give. They should give more," he said.

Mason believes, "It is not really about this little dinner, there is a fundamental difference in perspective. Some people like Marsha think that their job is to deliver services to people who need help. And that means working with whoever happens to be in power in Washington, working with them. It doesn't mean agreeing

with them but working with them to produce real, tangible results."

"That is a different perspective from people who are going to say they are mad about the election and other things. Hopefully, as people get further from the election they will calm down. What are they going to do? Be mad for four years and not engage?"

Mason sees 2005 as "a big year for domestic AIDS because of the upcoming five-year reauthorization of Ryan White," which funds most domestic AIDS programs. "This is the time when the AIDS advocacy community should be rallying all of its resources to make sure that real, tangible benefits are made available to people who need help."

"If we are unwilling to engage the people who make decisions in the government, on the administration side and in Congress, if we take an unreflective protest position - which is to say, we're mad, we're not going to talk to anybody, we're just going to protest - we're not doing anything helpful for people who we are supposed to be serving," Mason said. ▼

Tsunami

◀ page 16

as it would go. The group of about 30 people then disembarked and climbed even higher. Some tourists had their luggage with them and gave Stoneman and Jewel some sweatpants and long sleeved shirts. Others had snacks.

Up on the hill, helicopters circled above. Every time the wind blew it sounded like running water.

"We were petrified," said Jewel. "It wasn't a very big hill. We stayed awake all night long."

Getting home

People huddled together until the sun came up. They returned to the elephant camp, where they were told that the car ferries were operating for people who wished to leave the island. Stoneman and Jewel knew that such ferries had capsized earlier, but they decided to risk the 10-minute "agonizing" ride so that they could get to the airport. Before leaving they stopped in to see the resort they were supposed to have stayed in, which was severely damaged. The owner, however, told the women he had saved their luggage.

"It was unbelievable," said Stoneman. "This man had just lost

everything but he had held onto our bags for us."

Before they could get to Bangkok for their flight home they had to stay on Krabi, so they selected the nicest looking hotel out of their guidebook. It was, in effect, "war zone," having been turned into a makeshift hospital with beds in the banquet rooms and bandaged and bloody people roaming the hallways.

"There were people with ears ripped off. Mothers who couldn't find their children. A really cute guy who couldn't find his girlfriends," said Jewel. "There were television crews, rescue crews, helicopter landings, the military. Everybody there had a story."

Once back in San Francisco, the couple spent some down time in their Bernal Heights home. They returned to work on Monday, January 4, the law offices of Jewel and Stoneman, where they work as attorneys who help LGBT couples plan their wills and estates. Surviving the tsunami, they said, has personalized that work for them even more.

"We're always telling people to plan for the unexpected. And it can't get any more unexpected than this," said Jewel. "You never know when you could be on the wrong beach at the wrong time."

Jewel and Stoneman hope that

local LGBT couples will not ignore the warnings of this disaster just because it did not happen in the United States. For a period of time, they said, they will donate a portion of their fees for estate planning to the tsunami relief effort.

Other LGBT efforts for tsunami relief include the Rainbow World Fund; donations made through www.rainbowfund.org will be administered through its partner agency, CARE, which is already working in most of the countries hit by the disasters. Interested donors should specify "Asia" when making contributions.

Meanwhile, both Jewel and Stoneman are struggling to understand why they were spared when so many children and families were lost.

"We are extremely grateful we are both home together. We feel like several different miracles happened," said Stoneman. Had they waited even just a few hours to leave Kho Phi Phi their ferry would have been one that flipped over. Had their room at Kho Lanta been ready in time, they likely would have been there when the hotel filled with water. And they still aren't sure how they were able to outrun that large wave.

"It's hard to reconcile," said Jewel, "why we were the lucky ones." ▼

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE MAYOR'S HUNTERS POINT SHIPYARD CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco ("Agency") is seeking to engage a consultant or team of consultants ("Consultant") to provide technical advice to the Mayor's Hunters Point Shipyard Citizens Advisory Committee. Highest priority will be given to the Consultant that presents the best combination of the following areas of expertise: community and economic development and capacity building; coalition building; affordable housing; understanding of and experience with neighborhood planning and project development environmental issues; public interest law; and nonprofit program development. The responses to the Request for Proposals will be accepted until January 24, 2005, 4:00 p.m. To obtain a copy of the Request for Proposals packet or if you have questions, please contact Ms. Gaynell Armstrong, Assistant Project Manager, Telephone (415) 749-2593.

VACANCY NOTICES

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application from the Board of Supervisors web site at www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/bdsuprvr/Vacancy_Notices/vacancy_app.pdf or from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdsuprvr

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

PARK RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Vacant seat, succeeding Isabel Wade, resigned, seat 5, must be nominee of District 2 Supervisor from list of organizations listed in Res. 168-01, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending February 1, 2006.

Vacant seat, succeeding Catherine Rauschuber, seat 19, must be nominee of District 5 Supervisor from list of organizations listed in Res. 168-01, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending February 1, 2006.

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

Vacant seat, succeeding Jose Ricardo Bondoc, seat 10, resigned, must be an immigrant to the United States who is appointed in accordance with Section 4.101 of the Charter. In addition, members shall have a demonstrated knowledge of and interest in the health, human service, educational, or employment issues that affect immigrants residing in San Francisco, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending June 6, 2005.

SHELTER MONITORING COMMITTEE

The Shelter Monitoring Committee consists of 13 members; six appointed by the Board of Supervisors, three appointed by the Mayor, and four appointed by the Local Homeless Coordinating Board.

The purpose of the Committee is to provide the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, the Local Homeless Coordinating Board, the public, and any other appropriate agency with accurate, comprehensive information about the conditions in and operations of shelters.

The term of office of each Committee member shall be two years. In the event that a vacancy occurs during the term of office of any Committee member, a successor shall be appointed to complete the expired term of office. The interim appointment shall be made in the same or similar manner that governed the initial appointment of the departing member.

Please contact Renuka George (554-4861) for requests for appointment for the Mayor's three seats. Fax number 554-6552.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

San Francisco Community College District is accepting proposals for a food and coffee bar/cafe on the first floor of the Downtown Campus, located at 800 Mission St., San Francisco. An open house to view the space will be held on Wednesday, January 26, 2005 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Bids are due no later than Wednesday, February 9, 2005.

To sign up for the open house and to receive a proposal packet, please contact the Chief Administrative Services Office, Stephen J. Herman at (415) 241-2327 or his secretary Ms. Yolanda Panem at (415) 487-2417.

STATEMENT FILE A-0280886-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bernal Bike, 1637 Florida Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Henry F. Kroyer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/20/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/19/04. DEC.16,23,30 2004 JAN.6, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0281284-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: LoLo Cup, 2527 San Bruno Ave., San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed James Hin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/08/04. DEC.16,23,30 2004 JAN.6 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0281215-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Photos By Maurice, 556 Arlington Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Maurice Magnant. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/06/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/08/04. DEC.16,23,30 2004 JAN.6, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0281545-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Kim Phong, 730 Larkin Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed by Nu To Ngo Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/20/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/04/04. DEC.23,30 2004 JAN.6, 13 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0281018-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Nor King Spas, 250 Napoleon Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual, signed David Pallenberg. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/19/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/29/04. DEC. 23, 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0281452-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Odd Pod, #1674h Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Darick Agudelo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/15/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/15/04. DEC.30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005

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CITY AND COUNTY OF
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DEPARTMENT OF
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS #293

Dear Potential Applicant:
The City and County of San Francisco Human Services Agency (HSA) is seeking contractors to provide a 24-hour parental stress hotline for 365 days a year. The Department expects to select one contractor through this RFP process to offer telephone counseling, crisis intervention, information and referral, follow-up supportive services and case management, as needed, to callers.

The contracting period for the contracts will be July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2008. The contract may be extended beyond the term at the sole option of the agency based upon available funding and departmental needs. An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDHIS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, January 10, 2005. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM.

The RFP packet and subsequent updates may be downloaded from the City's website on or after January 10, 2005. Go to: <http://SUNSET.CLSECA.US/PBIDS.N> SF and click on the "Consultants and Professional Services" link.

The Respondents' Conference will be held on January 18, 2005 at 10:00 AM at 1650 Mission St., Suite 300, SF, CA. For further information, call Johanna Gendelman, at (415) 557-5162.

The deadline for submitting response packets is Tuesday, February 10, 2005 at 4:00 PM - No Exceptions 01/13/2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0281611-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Fog Towne Cafe, 1155 Market Street, San Francisco, CA. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Kwok Pang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on not applicable. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/23/04.
DEC. 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0281580-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: H and T 99 cents and over, 2706 24th Street, San Francisco, CA. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Truong Sam T. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/22/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/22/04.
DEC. 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0281499-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Jurislex Development Company. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed MH Marshall. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/16/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/17/04.
DEC. 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0281452-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: ABC Builders Co, 667 5th Ave. San Francisco, CA. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jing Hua Yie Agudelo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 12/07/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/15/04.
DEC. 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005



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LEGAL
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STATEMENT FILE A-0281448-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Thomas Livingston Antiques, 550 Jackson Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Thomas Livingston. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 06/15/77. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/15/04.
DEC. 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO

FILE # CNC 04541678
In the matter of the application of Don Garth Olson for change of name. The application of Don Garth Olson for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Don Garth Olson has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Don Carlo Parenti. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 24th day of February, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
DEC. 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO

FILE # CNC 04541638
In the matter of the application of Leslie Anne Carter for change of name. The application of Leslie Anne Carter for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Leslie Anne Carter has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Gabrielle Anne Carter. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 15th day of February, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
DEC. 30, 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME: #279441

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as One Good Deed located at 1032 Irving Street #902 San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business was conducted by an individual signed Kathy Elliot. The fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/21/04
DEC. 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0281648-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Real Equity Solutions, 332 Pine Street #307 San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Theodore J. Ammirio. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on not applicable. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/27/04.
DEC. 30 2004 JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005

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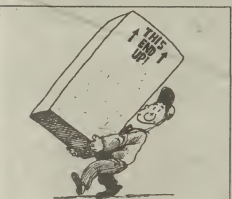
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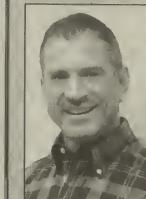
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To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are: Haddad Joel Jamil. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 3698 17th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. Type of License applied for: 41-ON-SALE BEER AND WINE - EATING PLACE
JAN. 6, 13, 20 2005

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Germany, Austria & Switzerland
Highlights from the 2005 'Berlin & Beyond' film fest at the Castro Theatre.
page 29

Look back in lust
The past year in gay porn,
in 'Karrnal Knowledge.'
page 39



Fashion plate
Meet A&F model-turned-actor Channing Tatum.
page 37



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 35 • No. 1 • 6 January 2005

Pull up a barstool with the B.A.R.

Where a classic neighborhood bar lives on

by Mike Sher and Mark Des Jardins

Welcome to a new biweekly column in the B.A.R.'s Arts & Entertainment section. Bar columnists Mike Sher and Mark Des Jardins will explore the full gamut of queer bars in the B.A.R.'s circulation area, from San Jose to San Francisco, from Oakland to the Russian River. The gay bar is one of the centers of our community's social life. Here's a chance to get better acquainted with some of the establishments. — Arts Ed.

Gangway for the Gangway! On Larkin a little South of Geary, step through the prow of a ship that never goes to sea, and you'll be in one of San Francisco's oldest neighborhood bars, around since the 1940s. In its early days, it was a safe haven for merchant seamen with a roving eye. Now the Gangway is known as a fun neighborhood bar with a mixed clientele, from office workers to a local woman in her late '30s in for a quick drink, to a neighborhood transvestite. In the '60s and '70s, young gay men would come out at night in denims and go to the Gangway to hang out with the crowd. Gay pride and gay allegiance flourished, and a shunned minority turned to a proud community taking its place in the sun.

The current owner, Sukie Lee, has her own motherly way of running a business. She will often come in late at night with a steaming dish of Korean noodles for everyone in the bar. And she always cooks food for those big holidays that Americans and San Franciscans love to celebrate. Other activities that are part of the bar's community outreach include sidewalk sales. Different charities benefit, including Larkin Street Youth Center.

The Gangway has two Happy Hours, one from 8-10 a.m., and one from 4-7 p.m. John Wise, our bartender during a recent visit, is a veteran of over 30 years of working there. He predates Sukie, a couple of German lesbians who owned the Gangway in the past, and a few others. John is typical of the tone of the establishment, warm and friendly. His watch has a cat's face. He presses a button, and the watch meows. Proudly, he boasts that he knew the late Bob

page 36 ►



Matt Letscher as Guy,
Adam Greer as Rick

Tales from the Hollywood closet

Coming out isn't an option in 'Straight-Jacket'

by David Lamble

It's a joy to recommend a movie that, while not aspiring to great heights, is pitch-perfect in the pleasure department. *Straight-Jacket* (this time without Joan Crawford and her bloody ax) tells the down-and-dirty story of Hollywood's poorest studio and its hammy, barely in-the-closet star, Guy Stoner. As Guy, Matt Letscher is dead-on gorgeous when he whips out lines the likes of, "What's the point of being famous if you can't use it to get laid?" or, "I always say without my fans, I'd be just like them."

The movie is a wacky parody of '50s Hollywood, where coming out was not an option. For our hammy hero Guy, every life-need outside of bed is looked after by a gay leeches (Michael Emerson), who spends the movie as a male Thelma Ritter. "I've tried reasoning with her, but the woman is impervious to droll remarks."

The movie also has its female Thelma Ritter, Guy's tireless manager Jerry ("I'm not a lesbian"), played with saucy delight by Veronica Cartwright, whom true triv-

ia fans will remember as the nasty little snitch of a girl who drove Shirley MacLaine to suicide in the remake of *The Children's Hour*.

Straight-Jacket is funny enough to function without a plot, but eventually writer/director Richard Day makes one up. Guy is a happy homo until a jealous rival takes an incriminating picture of him leaving a sex club. To keep the compromising photo out of the tabloids, Guy must agree to an arranged marriage — with the boss's secretary, Sally (Carrie Preston channels the naive charm of Ellen Greene from the *Little Shop of Horrors* remake), a girl so innocent they decide not to let her in on the joke — so that he can nab a longterm contract and secure the lead in *Ben-Hur*. "Make sure I get slave-boy approval!"

Torso torque

As luck would have it, Guy has finally been struck down by the thunderbolt of true love in the form of a lefty hunk of a screenwriter, Rick. As Rick, Adam Greer has one of those torsos favored in the beefcake body-builder magazines of the time, plus an endearing habit

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

Putting the horrible year behind us

With go-go boots, chastity belts & hairy bodies

by Roberto Friedman

Sorry, but our weekly task of writing wry, mildly amusing commentary on the passing scene has recently been made *molto* difficult by the sheer enormity of the natural disasters and manmade insanity (Bush term II) all around us this new year. As entertainer **Sandra Bernhard** put it in her stellar appearance at SF's Alcazar Theatre on New Year's Eve, the Indian Ocean tsunami wiped out a whole lot of innocent people, but the horrible people (in the White House, on the airwaves, etc.) are all still here! Rats.

Lucky for us, Sandy was balls-out great in her silver "baked-potato" go-go boots even at the early show, where we had to be taunted by her for being at the early show. "What the fuck are you going to do after the show that's better than this?" The balloon drops, bulging in their netting, weren't for us.

Mayor Gavin Newsom had declared Dec. 31 "Sandra Bernhard Breast Cancer Emergency Fund Day." During a very special, private champagne toast after the late show, **Mark Rhoades** of Bank of America presented SB with her proclamation in honor of



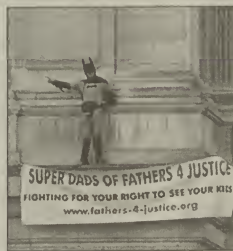
It's not the key to the city, but it's close: Sandra Bernhard Day in SF.

her efforts on behalf of the fund. Bernhard replied, "Don't be silly, I'm glad to be helping out!"

This was the week that one of Out There's merry elves suggested the following joke: Living theatrical legend **Liza Minnelli** falls out of her bed, and damned if the tectonic plates don't shift! Instant evaluation: Evil if funny, but really in rather bad taste. See our dilemma? Paging **The Ethicist!** Oh, if only we could just ignore

the demands of editorial space, and give over our entire cover to the makings of a paper party-hat, the way the *SF Chronicle Datebook* section did on NYE and has done on festive occasions past. No wait, we have more self-respect than that.

Fortunately, there were some lighter moments in the torrential media deluge of year-end wraps. Thanks to *BBC News* and their review of 2004 in pictures for reminding us of the Britishman clad in a **Batman** suit who scaled Buckingham Palace, where he was able to unveil his banner *Super Dads of Fathers 4 Justice* ("Fighting for the right to see your kids!") before some benign-looking bobbies talked him down. The Beeb pointed out that this superstunt by **Jason Hatch** of "Fathers 4 Jus-

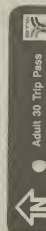


Batman plays Buckingham Palace.

stice" was just one in a series of events last year that highlighted the weakness of royal security measures. Also one of the year's best events in superhero gear.

Bad bad ad

Halfway around the world, the Bangkok skytrain system sells 30-trip fare-tickets in booklet form. **Our Man in Bangkok** had occasion to buy a new one on the day after the devastating tsunami hit South Asia. The farebook he got came emblazoned with an ad for



Fare booklet in Bangkok: a case of bad timing.

one of Bangkok's premier Japanese restaurants. As English-speaking Thais love to say, "Have a look!" We don't know how long they'll be issuing these, so grab it if you see it on eBay.



Out There

Pre-emptive warning to dragsters polishing their act in hopes of acting out at Trannyshack: The drag name **Sue Nami** is clearly in bad taste. Not good bad taste, bad bad taste.

Girl talk

The *Queer Eye* juggernaut rolls on! A new season of Bravo's *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* begins on Tuesday, Jan. 11, and this year there's even a spin-off, *Queer Eye for the Straight Girl*, which kicks off on Wed., Jan. 12. Bravo sent us screeners of both shows, so we invited over our straight-gal pal **Elena** for a home screening, in order to get her authentic opinion.

There's a new *Queer Eye* team assembled for the *Straight Girl*: **Robbie Laughlin** for "The Look,"

Danny Teason for "The Lifestyle," and **Damon Pease** for "The Locale." They were all *tres* gay, but Elena was much more impressed by the first lesbian on the *Queer Eye* faculty: **Honey Labrador** as "The Lady," who sees that each makeover — excuse us, we mean "make-better" — has a female touch. Honey's been a model and a fashion editor. Elena's endorsement: "She's hot!"

But what does Elena think of the concept of three fags and one dyke telling a straight girl how she should present?

"First of all, I'm not real keen on the whole term 'straight girl.' It makes me think of straight-laced, straight-as-an-arrow, straight-jacket. As you know, not all of us heteros are like that."

We're suitably admonished. Elena was the one who first pointed out to us the offensiveness of

both parts of the term "fag-hag." "Would you like to be called a 'dyke-Mike'?"

On the first episode, the *Queer Eye* "gal-pals" makeover a chick who lives in a garden apartment, threads her blonde ponytail through the back of her ballcap, and goes out of the house wearing Daisy Dukes. "It's a stacked deck," opined Elena. "You can tell straight off there's a hot girl in there, if she ever loses the *Li'l Abner* drag."

She does, and damn if she isn't heavy, hot stuff underneath. You know how it goes by now. Elena was blasé about the whole episode, but she kept larding the praise on Honey, who called Straight Girl "sweetheart" throughout, like a Sapphic **Bog-art**.

Then we watched the first ep of returning makeover champ *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*. Disappointingly, for its premier subject, the show chose to outfit a Marine who was preparing to go to the Iraqi front. He was already a red-hot stud from the get-go. This was a complete abdication of the show's premise, previously all

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The *Queer Eye for the Straight Girl* team includes Honey Labrador.

THEATRE

The personal side of a political animal

Tommi Avicolti Mecca is 'Italian. Queer. Dangerous' at Jon Sims Ctr.

by Richard Dodds

You often see the name Tommi Avicolti Mecca at the end of politically-charged letters to the editor. Now that name is above the title of a new one-man show that is more personal than political.

But Mecca realizes that his reputation as a queer radical may keep away some people fearing he'll bring along his soapbox, while possibly disappointing political sympathizers when they realize that the show isn't a rallying of the troops.

"I'm in a position where I probably can't win," Mecca conceded. "I'm hoping people will take a chance and see this other part of myself. Theater is what I wanted to do when I moved to San Francisco, but I always got sidetracked by the politics."

Italian. Queer. Dangerous, having a workshop run Jan. 14-29 at the Jon Sims Center, mostly focuses on Mecca's life growing up Italian in Philadelphia before he moved to SF in 1991. The hour-long show is made up of 17 vignettes that touch on family, early sex, cultural traditions, political stirrings, and lingering regrets.

"This is a work in progress," Mecca said. "I got accepted into the Intersection for the Arts incubator program, and my goal is to develop this piece over the next year. Hopefully, we're going to be in the Queer Arts Festival in June."

Mecca works by day for the Housing Rights Committee, a job that isn't conducive to theatrical musings. "I am so devastated by the kinds of cases I deal with all the time that when I come home, writing is the last thing I want to



The playwright at present, and in the heady days of early gay liberation.

do."

But when the Vanguard Foundation awarded Mecca a three-month sabbatical, his creative juices began to flow. With a newly purchased laptop, he'd head to Golden Gate Park for days of contemplation and creation.

"During those three months, I did a lot of soul-searching, and I realized, I'm 53, and really all my life I wanted to be on stage. Politics is sort of like being on stage, but it's not very satisfying, because politics is an endlessly frustrating process. With theater, it's a greater adrenaline rush."

Mecca is not a latecomer to theater, having been a regular on Philadelphia-area stages before moving West. "I founded a troupe called Avalanche, which was the country's first multiracial queer troupe," he said. "When I moved here, I did a month-long stint at Josie's Cabaret in 1992 called *All in All, I'd Rather Be Having Sex*. It was more about the wild '70s side

of myself, and all the sex and the parties. I thought it would be a great stepping-stone, but I got distracted because all this political stuff would come along."

In the new piece, Mecca variously laughs at himself for his genderfuck pranks, waxes nostalgic about the heady early days of the gay-liberation movement, mourns the loss of most of his early gay-lib colleagues, and admits to an unshakable sadness at how his coming out destroyed his relationship with his father.

"I think for the first time ever I'm really zoning in on this relationship, and trying to see it from my father's perspective as well as my own. If I had it to do over again, I know I could do it in a way that wouldn't totally alienate my father, which was the worst thing that happened to me in my life."

In rehearsal, Mecca has sometimes been moved to tears. "It's hard as an actor to suddenly switch moods when you're doing 17 vignettes in an hour," he said. "I can't be in that mood for all the other pieces." Director Francesca Prada is providing help.



Hot flashes

by Jim Piechota

XXX: 30 Porn Star Portraits by Timothy Greenfield-Sanders; Bullfinch Press, \$35

From HBO's new documentary series *Pornucopia* to the current publication of revealing memoirs by such porn luminaries as Jenna Jameson and Tracy Lords, contemporary media's recent porn-stars-are-people-too campaign seems to be focused on making the adult-film industry more accessibly mainstream than ever. Critically acclaimed photographer Timothy Greenfield-Sanders' new, classy coffee-table book, seeing brisk sales in bookstores and Manhattan art galleries, furthers this cause by not only offering uniquely brilliant photography but smart, introspective essays and stories sprinkled among the eye-popping snapshots.

The pictorial portion exposes 30 adult film stars from both gay and straight XXX movies; they're fully clothed on the left-side pages and completely nude on the corresponding right sides. The effect is titillating, and puts a face to the many porn actors we've seen in

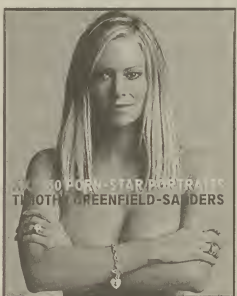
numerous precarious positions — with face-forward and vertical not being one of them.

No stranger to the spotlight, porn doyenne Jenna Jameson graces the cover, beckoning readers inside with a sly smirk, along with the irresistible Jason Hawke, a stately Tera Patrick, delicious Lukas Ridgeston, the enormity and genetically-blessed heft of Chad Hunt and Lexington Steele, and this reviewer's all-time personal favorite, the adorably beautiful Savanna Samson.

On the other hand, some of these stars look better fully-clothed. Briana Banks appears ridiculously top-heavy, outdated Ron Jeremy looks lost, and the voluptuous Sunrise Adams is inexplicably even sexier in simple wire-framed glasses and low-rise jeans.

Interviews consist of Nancy Friday chatting up outspoken legendary feminist porn-queen Nina Hartley in a spirited verbal volley on her "groundbreaking feminist approach to sexuality," and John Waters probing Chi Chi "The Dorothy Azner of Porn" LaRue if he ever gets sick of sex (yep, he does).

As tantalizing as these photographs are, the written sections often outshine the lens' naked



truths. Faye Wattleton and Salman Rushdie offer stimulatingly critical viewpoints about sexual taboos. Hip novelist A.M. Homes serves up aphrodisiacal alphabet soup. JT Leroy's essay on his hustling past and its repercussions is unsettling, but pales in comparison to Whitley Streiber's spell-binding account of being electrocipated by aliens in 1985. Even Lou Reed's nasty computer-spam flapdoodle is worth a chuckle. There's also a companion CD soundtrack to XXX (sold separately), of terrific music featuring Goldfrapp, The Velvet Underground, Felix da Housecat, and Heather Hunter, who is photographed inside. Don't let the price scare you away. This book is a worthwhile investment in art and exclusive essays, captivating us with visceral beauty and forthright language. ▼

"Francesca is an Argentinean-born lesbian who's a filmmaker by trade," Mecca said. "She likes working in images, and that's one reason we're going to develop more video for it as we go along."

One thing his director is leaving alone is Mecca's mile-a-minute manner. "I'm very energetic on stage, and Francesca seems to like that. She's high energy, too. Some directors have tried to subdue me, but that usually doesn't work."

For ticket info on *Italian. Queer. Dangerous*, call 554-0402 or go to jonsimsctr.org.

Money matters

New Conservatory Theatre Center is the recipient of a \$150,000 three-year grant from the James Irvine Foundation. The money is earmarked for three YouthAware Educational Theatre programs, including two one-person plays.

Ed Roy's *Party Daze!* looks at date rape through the eyes of a young man. Anna Furse's *Gorgeous* explores issues of body image, eating disorders, and diet. Some of the money will also go to OutSpoken, a program designed to enlist young people to become advocates for gay and lesbian tolerance.

The Magic Theatre is one of six theaters across the country selected for an AT&T OnStage Award for the development of new plays. The amounts range from \$50,000 to \$70,000, and include an additional prize for the playwright.

The Magic is getting the money for John Belluso's *The Rules of Charity*, a play about an impoverished disabled gay man, the daughter who hates being his caretaker, and a landlord for whom the gay man has developed romantic longings. *The Rules of Charity* will be seen in the spring

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La Callas, back & better than ever

Diva's classic repertoire out on new CDs & DVDs

by Stephanie von Buchau

Though some may believe that opera died just before Christmas with the legendary Renata Tebaldi, I submit the names Olga Borodina, Juan Diego Florez, Rolando Villazon, Ruth Ann Swenson, Anna Netrebko, Angela Gheorghiu, Susan Graham, Angelika Kirchschlager, Alice Coote, Deborah Voigt, Laura Aikin, Ramon Vargas, Dolora Zajick, Rene Pape and Christine Brewer as proof that it has not. Even amidst plenty, however, does anyone reign more supreme today than Maria Callas, who died in 1977?

Her label, EMI Classics, has done much to keep the Callas flame burning, with re-issues of complete opera sets, repackaging of recitals, and even the smart fiscal move of collecting live performances previously available only on "pirate" discs. It does get a bit confusing for completists, but those new to Callas worship can contemplate a continuing stream of delectables, such as the recent combined CD-DVD set *Callas, Life & Art*, and the DVD *The Callas Conversations* (both from EMI Classics).

Callas, Life & Art seems to be the product of a demented art director; we know Maria has a fanatical gay following, but somehow the pink pages of the extensive booklet strike me as a stereotypical miscalculation. Not all



gays, and certainly not all Callas queens, are flaming pink flamigos. I can't think of an opera singer less "pink" than Maria Callas. (That's a Renee Fleming color, for sure.) Still, the photos are choice, from a chubby, severe Maria as Scala's Constanze and Gioconda in 1952, and the camp fashion-model she so desperately strove to become (looking in one picture exactly like Fanny Ardant), to the serene Christian Steiner portrait on page 2.

The two CDs, each nearly 80 minutes, are titled "The Tragic Heroine" (arias from *Norma*, *Trovatore*, *La Wally*, *Mefistofele*, *Chenier*, *Aida* and the usual Puccini suspects) and "The Romantic Heroine" (Bellini, Donizetti, Cilea, Gounod, Berlioz and other French composers). This division strikes me as arbitrary, especially since the long essay in the booklet easily blends the two. The important thing here is the information about Callas' performance schedule. (I didn't know she'd sung nei-

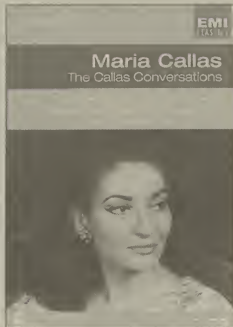
ther Mimi nor Adriana on stage.)

The DVD is a 1987 documentary, a look at the performer and the woman behind the public persona. Perfectly straightforward and not the expected hagiography, it employs unimpeachable talking heads — Lord Harewood, Di Stefano, Giulini, Zeffirelli — to tell us why Callas was a great musical artist and how her artistic life diverged so dramatically and tragically from her personal life. We hear her sing. Particularly interesting are the Japanese footage from her final recital tour with Di Stefano, and 43 minutes from the 1962 Hamburg recital.

In conversation

The Callas Conversations DVD includes the two 1968 sessions that Lord Harewood did for the BBC at her luxurious apartment in Paris. The diva, looking haggard and dressed like an Arabic princess, speaks in that snooty mid-Atlantic accent that Jessye Norman later adopted. The conversations are entirely about technique and repertoire. No hints of a crisis in her affair with Onassis (he married Jackie Kennedy that year), but lots of unorthodox musical ideas. She doesn't much like Puccini, and advocates wholesale cutting of and "modernizing" operas for "the new audience."

The Harewood interviews have been on television many times. What I hadn't seen was a French interview (with English subtitles)



by Bernard Gavoty, a slimy TV personality who sucked up to famous artists like Callas and Karajan. This ORTF piece, which ends with the diva singing three arias, was made in 1965. She has plenty of voice for "Adieu, notre petite

table." "Ah, non credea mirarti" (with its lengthy recitative) and "O mio babbino caro."

I don't know whether it is the French language or the fact that the Onassis affair was still ongoing, but this Maria (in black-and-white) looks 10 years younger than the statue facing Lord Harewood. Charming, almost kittenish, she answers Gavoty's idiotic questions with a half-smile and then proceeds to sing (with Georges Pretre conducting — I'd forgotten what a dish he was) in the most simple, light, communicative style. The tragedies of Manon and Amina are tenderly portrayed while the Puccini aria could procure a Lexus, a fur coat and college financing from the most impoverished Daddy. Though this segment is only one-third of the DVD's 120 minutes, it's worth the entire price. ▼

Contralto sings, swings

by Jason Victor Serinus

Born in Berkeley and raised in California, contralto Elizabeth Anker was still a student at UC Berkeley when, as she modestly puts it, "word got around that I could sing." From that time on, contemporary composers have been writing music designed to exploit the richness of her voice and her uncommon facility with classical, pop and jazz styles.

"All my life," Anker explains, "I've sung pop music and played piano. When I was living in SF, I wrote arrangements of tunes by Margie Adams and Carol King. Around the same time that Chanticleer began, I sang, wrote vocal arrangements, and played piano in an all-women's ensemble called The Veil of Isis. We were never as ambitious as Chanticleer, but we did contemporary music and had a lot of fun."

Eighteen years ago, Liz fell in love with her future partner, who was living in Boston. After a year performing in Europe, she moved East to build a relationship and further her classical career. A successful series of recordings, years of touring with Boston Camerata singing American roots music, and recent returns to the Bay Area to solo with Warren Stewart's Magnificat and sing "girl bass" on their premiere recording of the music of Cazzolani followed. So did marriage on May 17, 2004, the first day same-sex marriage became legal in Massachusetts.

As she was approaching 50, Anker got up the gumption to contact a host of composers, some of whose music she had always wanted to sing, and ask if they would write songs for her. Many of the works she received in return she premiered at a Boston birthday concert last June. It is this evening, filled with world premieres and the music she loves, that she performs Friday night at the Berkeley City Club, and Sunday at San Francisco's Old First Church.

The concert includes baroque



Elizabeth Anker can shift styles.

music, romantic music, several songs by Mahler, 12 premieres, and a couple of pop songs. It begins with Dietrich Buxtehude's sacred "Jubilate Domine" for voice, viola da gamba and harpsichord, and ends with a jazz remix improv of same for voice, piano, percussion and audience.

"I wanted to bring together the different parts of myself," says Anker. "It's ridiculous to think that any of us can't take off the operatic hoo-hah, and sing the music we sang well as kids. It's just a matter of being able to be authentic and stay in the style, shifting from baroque to romantic to contemporary music. One of the signs of a good musician is the ability to shift styles."

Spirits uplifted

Viola plays a strong part in the recital. After composer Mark Winges reminded Liz that the combination of alto voice and viola sounds especially mellifluous, she ended up with seven songs for alto and viola. Her favorite violist, Scott Woolweaver, a gay man who performs with the Ives String Quartet, joins five other musicians for the concert. Texts are by lesbian poet May Sarton, Denise Levertov, Georgia O'Keeffe, and other greats.

"I got tired of singing of love gone wrong," says Anker. "All the

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The Castro hosts Germany

Choices from 2005 'Berlin & Beyond' festival

by David Lample

Six highlights from *Berlin & Beyond - New Films from Germany, Austria & Switzerland*, January 6-13 at the Castro Theatre, follow.

The Edukators Is it possible that we are headed into a new "New Wave" of German cinema? One good sign is that German film fans now have their own Gael-like hottie with the acting chops to boot. A film-director father helped jumpstart Cologne-born Daniel Bruhl's career. On and off screen, he radiates the soulful intensity found in the work of young American prodigies like Jake Gyllenhaal or Ryan Gosling, the ability to segue almost mid-sentence from drama to comedy, to be simultaneously the boy next door and a dangerous, dark trickster who just might do anything that popped into his head.

These talents are put to use in a new mixed-genre piece where youthful anarchism is pitted against a love triangle that has an idealistic young girl (Julia Jentsch) falling for her two hunky accomplices (Bruhl and Stipe Erceg) in a joy-riding series of break-ins on middle-class villas. Helmed by Austrian-born, Cologne-educated director/writer Hans Weingartner (*White Noise*) (with Katharina Held), *The Edukators* combines handheld camerawork and a Dogme-influenced set of film aesthetics to kick off the festival's opening-night showcase at the Castro. [Gala & film, 1/6]

Jagged Harmonies The festival's only truly queer film pulls its weight with a detailed portrait of a tragic queen of a King, Frederick II of Prussia. The time is 1747, the place Potsdam (about two centuries before Harry Truman spent a riotous two months there with that life of the party, Joe Stalin), and Frederick is in a blue funk, getting the 18th century's version of anti-depressant therapy. This naughty monarch has recently presided over the torture and beheading of his boyfriend (a very handsome lieutenant seen in a long shot while he still has his head), and now he has to play host to that musical dominatrix, composer Johann Sebastian Bach.

The film makes us aware how much "Maestro" resembles "Majesty." In the opening scene, the grand old man Bach is informed that he's going blind. This doesn't prevent Johann from seeing through Frederick, who fancies himself a bit of a musical genius, and who treats his guests the way Edward Albee's Martha does.

An amazing scene shows Frederick and his court toadies dishing Johann in his presence while wearing napkins over their heads and eating pheasant drowned in brandy. Frederick tells Johann what he does with a guest who no longer amuses him. "When we have squeezed the lemon, we will throw away the peel."

A great ensemble cast depicts the musical and bedroom machinations with appropriate fervor. Johann's oldest son Wilhelm Friedemann is shown to have been quite a rake with the ladies, including Frederick's sister, who dons boy-drag for a roll in the stables.

Splendidly filmed in an authentically gloomy old castle,



Stipe Erceg, Julia Jentsch and Daniel Bruhl star in *The Edukators*.

Jagged Harmonies is *Amadeus* meets *The Madness of King George*, with just a touch of the Marquis de Sade. [1/12]

The Miracle of Bern "Women are the natural enemies of soccer," an old man whispers to a much younger one, as if they were Masons exchanging the secret handshake. The German national soccer team were the Boston Red Sox of their day: 1954, when the Soviet Union finally repatriated thousands of German prisoners of war. Since Stalin treated POWs the way Frederick II treated ex-boyfriends, you might not be surprised to see Richard, a soldier returning home 12 years after capture, mistaking his daughter for his wife, and not recognizing his 11-year-old son soccer-loving son, Matthias.

Matthias has become a kind of mascot and best boy for the German team's leading bad-boy scorer, affectionately known as "The Boss." The Boss likes his beer, and tends to get pouty when the irascible old coach benches him for a key game.

Aside from a gaggle of attractive guys of all ages, *The Miracle of Bern* entertainingly reinforces the ancient truth that most nations go gaga over team sports, and boys lose their hearts first to men who can kick, bat or punch their way to fame. The story's shopworn theme of the great game is refreshed with some poignant details about just how badly many Germans needed cheering up after a four-decade-long national fiasco. Plus, Matthias' finally bonding with mean old dad will grab your heart, if you can forget a bunny-battering scene that rivals the one

in *Fatal Attraction*.

Warning: Some bunnies did not hop away as happily as you may from this tearjerker. [Closing-night film & party, 1/13]

En Route This moody piece about a young unmarried couple, on a camping trip with her young daughter, who encounter a lurky turkey of a skinny-boy stranger late one night will keep you guessing as to just where it's going and why. But it's well-worth the 81 minutes we spend with Sandra, Jule, Benni and Marco. Martin Kiefer as the slippery blonde charmer Marco (sharing festival-hottie honors with Daniel Bruhl) turns out to have a lot of secrets for a barely-out-of-his-teens dude. He flirts well with both sexes.

First-time feature writer/director Jan Kruger (another member of the Cologne school of filmmaker fueling this new German wave) withholds crucial character beats as long as possible in a film that is kind of the German/Polish equivalent to an Eric Stoltz romance-gone-awry piece. Anabelle Lachatte is first-rate as a woman pushing 30 and caught between opposite male spirits. Florian Panzner may surprise when he trades his peevish boyfriend-in-residence act for a different persona. [1/7]

Nocturne What do you do with a guy who threatens to kill himself for an entire film, who spouts Nietzsche to the point of insanity (a stock cliché in this navel-inspecting film), who lures his kid brother and the brother's blonde girlfriend to an almost empty hotel

spa (like the joint Woody Allen used to bait his fans in *Stardust Memories*), and who seems a little too fond of his own despair?

Well-played by a cast that includes brothers Martin and Patrick Rapold, *Nocturne*, aside from lessons in keeping a fashionably short beard, in getting a record to skip in the right place, and in dealing with a bartender who gets huffy when you don't remember the beer list, makes you long for the days when Dirk Bogarde had these rascals down to their daily Valium intake. Black and white, fashionably pessimistic and mercifully short (80 minutes). [1/8]

Bruno Ganz Tribute A real treat at festivals is the chance to meet and mingle with actors whose résumé is worthy of a leisurely rewind. Bruno Ganz has the eclectic body of work of a mid-level character actor who has earned a good living on several continents, and who has films he's crazy about (his latest, *Downfall*, has him emoting through the last days of Hitler) and those he'd probably just as soon forget (*The Boys From Brazil*, probably the single best or worst piece of a subgenre known as Nazi kitsch). [Bruno Ganz in *Conversation* with David Thomson, 1/9] ▼

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Woman pushing 30 caught between opposite male spirits in *En Route*.



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Sean Penn is an all-time loser

He can't save 'The Assassination of Richard Nixon'

by David Lamble

In a singularly moving moment in a film that doesn't have many, Sean Penn is a barely employed office-furniture salesman who has agreed to sacrifice the last shred of his masculinity on the altar of Dale Carnegie. Penn is here operating in a very low gear. Pressed by his avuncular bully of a boss to shave his mustache because hairy-lipped salesmen are as bad for business as bachelors, Penn hacks away at the offending follicles as if he were losing a limb. His boss (a powerful supporting role by Australian Jack Thompson, this movie's Energizer Bunny) smiles like a man who just finished a rich meal. "Now you can look like a family man instead of some schmuck with a pussy on his face."

Penn is always riveting, whether shooting rats for Woody Allen, shooting a boyhood friend for Clint Eastwood, or shooting Christopher Walken as his gang-leader-of-a-dad in *At Close Range*, a movie whose DVD should come with a trial sample of Valium. In *The Assassination of Richard Nixon*, Penn reaches for a complex hybrid of a character — Travis Bickle in the body of Willy Loman — playing a man so down on his

luck that when he reaches to pet the family dog, we worry that his bad karma will rub off on the pooch. Sure enough, it does. Films in which a protagonist sets off to kill the President but succeeds in killing a dog are stories rooted in a kind of comic pessimism that we associate with Woody Allen's *War and Peace* spoof, *Love and Death*. It's the absence of humor in the new performance that reminds us how much Jack Nicholson gave Penn as director (*The Crossing Guard*) when Penn played a ticking time-bomb character still graced with the trace elements of Nicholson's comic persona.

Will power

When we first meet him, Penn's Sam Bicke is dictating his last will and testament, a tape-recording he will mail off to Leonard Bernstein. A better film would show us Bernstein listening to Bicke's mad rant the way poor Bicke soaks up Bernstein's moodier records.

That this high school drop-out should regard Lenny as his confessor is a piece of black humor the film needs a lot more of. It's also one of the few times in the film that we get a glimpse inside the mind of this desperately unhappy little man. Coming off a performance in *Mystic River* in



Penn allows himself tics, shrugs.

which he roared like a wild beast — as a petty criminal with a chip on his shoulder worthy of a Shakespearean villain — Penn here allows himself a rich gallery of tics, shrugs and grimaces, as he plays a man who can literally do nothing right.

Unlike Willy Loman, we never see a Sam Bicke who isn't pathetically inept or odious, as in the way he exploits a friendship with a black mechanic (a splendid Don Cheadle). There is a weirdly funny moment where Bicke tries to buy his way into the Black Panther Party, asking them to trade their

ferocious cat for a zebra.

Naomi Watts (who starred with Penn in the superior *21 Grams*) plays Bicke's long-suffering almost-ex-wife, owner of the doomed dog. When Bicke whines he grew the mustache for her, Watts lets off a sigh that Richard Nixon could have picked up on his White House tapes a few cities away.

Oh, yes, Nixon, is he in the movie? As Bicke's mental state declines, he starts to notice Nixon on TV with variations of his "I'm not a crook," act. Since, as the film's ad tag-line reminds us, this is supposed to be "the mad story of a true man," we start bracing for a *Day of the Jackal*-kind of thriller which causes your heart to race in anticipation of an act that is totally implausible. Sadly, director Niels Mueller (*Tadpole*) lets us down with an oddly attenuated climax that, while having an edgy 9/11 wrapper, is ultimately as empty and pointless as the evening's breaking news.

The Assassination of Richard Nixon has the good sense to use a portion of the actual Walter Cronkite broadcast on the real botched assassination. Seeing Uncle Walter ultimately serves the ironic purpose of reminding us of better news and better movies. *Opens Friday.* ▼

Elizabeth Anker

◀ page 28

poems are very uplifting, celebrating life, nature and human spirit. I chose the texts, and let the composers pick the poems that spoke to them."

World premieres include works by out lesbians Janice Giteck and Elinor Armer, as well as the openly gay Sanford Dole. Even though Anker first sang ensemble pieces by the women in

the '70s, a lack of funds to commission original works forced her to wait until she was near 50 to make her requests. So many composers from both coasts responded graciously that, while songs continue to come in, she must limit recital premieres to 12 in order to keep the program of manageable length.

One of Anker's greatest joys was writing her high school choral teacher, now a Nashville-based composer of sacred music for evangelical choirs, to thank him for proclaiming that she was destined to become a music teacher rather than a doctor. He not only

surprised her by congratulating her on her relationship, but also wrote "the most beautiful" setting of Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken" for the recital. When Anker spies him in the San Francisco concert, it will mark their first reunion in 30 years.

"Having done so much old stuff, it's really fun to do music that's brand-new and in English. It's a perfect concert for people

who don't think they like classical music. This music is very vibrant and alive. It's so much broader than people imagine."

Contralto Elizabeth Anker performs *Poet Power*, a 50th Birthday recital, on Fri., Jan. 7, 8 p.m. at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley, (510) 848-7800; and Sun., Jan. 9, 4 p.m. at Old First Church, 1751 Sacramento St. in SF, (415) 474-1608. ▼

Backstage

◀ page 27

as part of the Magic's Hot House festival of new plays.

Short scenes

• Berkeley Rep Artistic Director Tony Taccone leads a talk with playwright Tony Kushner (*Angels in America*) at 7 p.m., Jan. 14 at the theater. The free event is presented in conjunction with the Jan. 18 opening of Kushner's *Caroline, or Change* at the Curran Theatre. More info at (510) 647-2949 or berkeleyrep.org.

• Meg Mackay and Billy Philadelphia are returning to the New Conservatory Theatre Center for an encore run of their Cole Porter cabaret show *So in Love*. Performances are Jan. 14-Feb. 6. Call 861-8972 or go to nctcsf.org.

• *Chicago* is returning to the Bay Area later this month, this time stopping at the American Musical Theatre of San Jose. Bianca Marroquin and Brenda Braxton head the cast as Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly, and Gregory Harrison of *Trapper John*, MD fame plays Billy Flynn. Call (888) 455-SHOW or go to amtsj.org. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.



Guy agrees to an arranged marriage with the boss's innocent secretary.

Straight-Jacket

◀ Arts cover

of wearing a tank-top as if it were a bra. Rick quickly learns that Guy is impervious to compliments. "I'm everybody's type."

The laughs slow down a tad in the second half, when Day has to work out the devious details of Guy being simultaneously a fag and red-baited, but a funny line

usually saves the day. "This subpoena is the only time your name will appear above John Garfield's."

This one is as funny as it hopes to be, and a great night out for film buffs and guy buffs, with a snide comment to everybody's taste.

"Was he killed?" "He got fat." Or: "When did this business get so mean?" "When they started it." *Opens Friday.* ▼

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FILM

Checking into the 'Hotel Rwanda'

Powerful exploration of a horrific genocide in Africa

by David Lamble

Hotel Rwanda is a great example of a film you think you don't want to see until you see it and know why you needed to. Filmmaker Terry George has partnered in the past with director Jim Sheridan in films about the Irish troubles, including *In the Name of the Father* and *The Boxer*. He understood that the subject of the Rwandan genocide — a story that was pathetically underreported at the time, slightly over a decade ago — needed to be a movie movie, closer to *The Year of Living Dangerously* than *Fahrenheit 9/11*, with a bankable and emotionally transcendent lead. The silky smooth Don Cheadle was born to play hotel manager Paul Rusesabagina, whom history chose to be Africa's Oscar Schindler. It's not a role that a sane man would choose for himself, but Rusesabagina was a hospitality maven whose last guests had good reason to fear that they might check in, but never check out.

The Schindler's List-like subtext for the film is established in early scenes that show Cheadle, as Rusesabagina, handing out bribes to the sharp operators and guys in mufti who controlled supplies of everything that flowed into this landlocked African country, down to the last disposable diaper or

Diet Coke. Rusesabagina could never have imagined how quickly he would have to call in his chits, and literally bargain with some very bad men for human lives, as if they were meant to be sold by the pound.

Rusesabagina's opportunity to be a hero in the first place stemmed from his Hutu tribal status. The bloodbath that would ultimately claim nearly a million lives stemmed from the long-standing hostility between the majority Hutus versus the minority Tutsis. His first moment of conscience comes when a Hutu army officer orders him to kill his Tutsi wife and her extended family. What might climax many a film is merely the first bite of the apple. Rusesabagina is presented with an ever-escalating Russian Roulette game, where it appears that all the chambers are loaded. Combining the best part of the nonviolent-resistance tactics of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with the best of Conrad Hilton's rules for the road, Rusesabagina managed to fake out his Hutu opponents with the transparent ruse that, because his hotel was Belgian-owned, the fate of his 1,268 non-paying guests was a matter of concern in the West.

Command performances

A film such as this lives and dies through writing and pitch-perfect casting. Every nightmare

in Rusesabagina's little universe is represented by a big-name actor or capable character-player. Nick Nolte gives a career-reviving turn as the United Nations commander who must tell Rusesabagina that nobody cares about black refugees (Nolte makes the point bluntly in words bleeped from the film's TV ads). Joaquin Phoenix is cool as a Western cameraman who doesn't believe what's unfolding before his lens (*Hotel Rwanda* is careful to limit glimpses of the madness afoot). Sophie Okonedo is superb as the wife whose faith in their survival wavers, but never her love for a doggedly hospitable husband.

Like most great films, *Hotel Rwanda* delivers a series of set-pieces that define courage and lead to unspeakable violence. Rusesabagina's small son is struck dumb by the weight of what he's seen in the streets. And in the film's most sublimely horrific moment, Rusesabagina is told by a Hutu mercenary (who speaks of the Tutsis as cockroaches) to take his latest batch of precious supplies to the hotel by way of a back road that has been "cleared." Instead, Rusesabagina and his Tutsi driver realize that their jeep is literally stuck on a road re-paved with corpses. The real Rusesabagina is a consultant to a film that never blinks at what Joseph Conrad called "the horror." *Opens Friday.* ▼



Don Cheadle plays Paul Rusesabagina, Sophie Okonedo plays his wife.

Out There

◀ page 26

about taking a *schlub* and making him into a prince. Who at Bravo (a subsidiary of NBC, itself a subsidiary of military contractor General Electric) ran this up whose flagpole? We hated the whole thing.

On the other hand, Elena thought the *QE* concept still had some juice in it. Casting a straight eye at our slovenly attire, complete lack of makeup, and book-strewn, hovelish home, she cast us for the very first installment of *Queer Eye for the Out There*.

Bear club

Future tense: *Hairy Bodies* is an artists' group show inspired by the eroticization and fetishization of large, hairy men. The exhibition coming to the LAB later this month intends to explore this new ideal of male beauty quite outside of the mainstream, through video, photography, and installation. Participating artists will include **Nayland Blake**, **Ruth Eckland** and show organizer **Chris Komater**. *Hairy Bodies* will fill the LAB, 2948 16th St., SF, from January 29 to February 26.

The fashion event *Bear Walk*, a presentation of **Nick Dong's** jewelry fastened directly to live, hairy bodies, will transpire on Friday, February 18, 6-9 p.m. Info at (415)864-8855.

Texan sexin'

One of the revelations of the excellent biopic *Kinsey* now in theaters is how little the terms of the debate over sex education in public schools have changed in 50 years. **Dr. Alfred Kinsey** had to fight for the funding to do his research into sexual function and dysfunction, trapped in a rigidly Puritan culture where students were taught that total abstinence



Liam Neeson as Dr. Alfred Kinsey

from sex was the only way to go.

Well, guess what? Texas public schools have had abstinence-only sex education since 1995, when then-Governor **George W. Bush** signed a law making Texas the third state in the union to follow the curriculum.

Teenager **Shelby Knox** is a high school student in Lubbock, Texas, where abstinence is taught as the only form of safe sex. Yet the county where she lives has some of the highest rates of teen pregnancy and sexually-transmitted disease in the state. *The Education of Shelby Knox*, a documentary by **Rose Rosenblatt** and **Marion Lipschutz**, will screen at the Sundance Film Festival this month, then have its national broadcast premiere later this year on PBS' independent-documentary P.O.V. series.

Knox took a chastity pledge with other teens in her church group, promising before her parents and God, "On my wedding night, that night will be my first time." But her attempts to get her school district to offer real sex education are in vain. She joins ranks with a group of gay students who are suing because they have been denied the right to form a

gay-straight alliance in school. When an organization called "God Hates Fags" comes to Lubbock to protest the gay kids' lawsuit, Shelby and her mother join a counterprotest, carrying a sign that reads, "God Loves Everybody." It's good to know there are some potential free-thinkers out there, despite the increasingly backward social climate. Our nation's future may well depend on them.

Correction of the week, from last Sunday's *New York Times* "Corrections: For the Record" column: "An article on Tuesday about an invasion of rats in the Alaskan islands misstated the name of an animal for which rats create an especial health risk. It is the Steller sea lion, not stellar." But still pretty damn fine. ▼

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COMING

Undiscovered musical treasure

Getting acquainted with violinist Thomas Zehetmair

by Tim Pfaff

Still vying for the least-known best musician on today's circuit is Thomas Zehetmair, whose recording of Eugène Ysaÿe's *Six Sonatas for Solo Violin* (ECM) made many critics' Best of 2004 lists. It could as easily have made mine, except that, like many of his most interesting colleagues, Zehetmair popped up on other CDs, too. Like pianist Martha Argerich, he also turned up on a riveting new recording of Beethoven's *Triple Concerto* (Warner Classics), with cellist Clemens Hagens and pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard, who swallows up the rest of the disc with his performances of Beethoven's still too rarely heard Choral Fantasy, Op. 80, and Rondo in B-flat Major.

In fact, Zehetmair's achievement in the Ysaÿe CD is a match for Andrew Manze's in the Biber *Rosary Sonatas*: a great instrumentalist outdoing even himself. Perhaps his only debt is to Maxim Vengerov's recordings of the



Sonatas Nos. 2, 3, 4, & 6 of a couple years back, which established definitively that the Ysaÿe sonatas are not just confections for fiddle-fanciers but important, great compositions.

Vengerov's recording was like Moses bringing the tablets down from the mountain, at the time still a necessary act. Zehetmair's more richly detailed, fine-grained performances have the equally special quality of a great musical mind working in isolation, as the composer himself did as he composed the pieces at a Belgian coastal resort in 1923-24. Instead of delivering them from on high, he plays them from deep inside.

There's a palpable sense of his identification with these difficult works. Ysaÿe wrote each of the six for a particular violinist, matching the music to those virtuosos' characters, as people and players. Zehetmair nails the unique qualities of each while giving the entire set a unified feel. His command is complete yet never ostentatious, and his uncommonly keen intelligence shines everywhere.

Ysaÿe commented that his inspiration for the set was the way Joseph Szigeti, the dedicatee of the First Sonata, played the Bach Solo Sonatas and Partitas for Violin. Predictably, Ysaÿe's First is saturated with quotes and other manifestations of Bach's singular genius, and Zehetmair's melding of the Bach influence and Ysaÿe's response is nothing short of alchemical.

More Bach appears in the Second Sonata, the most uncompromising of the sonatas, dedicated to Jacques Thibaud. The titles of its four movements — "Obsession," "Malinconia," "Danse des ombres" and "Les furies" — define their character with uncanny precision, and Zehetmair is at his apex here. His is a less histrionic reading than Vengerov's, but more penetrating. It's the little notes and passing figures that make some of the biggest impacts.

To hear both Ysaÿe and Zehetmair at their most dazzling, go directly to the Finale of the Fourth Sonata, dedicated to Fritz Kreisler. But there are no slack moments, and the two single-movement sonatas, the Third and Sixth, con-

jure entire musical worlds over the span of seven minutes each. Throughout, the fiddling seems superhuman.



Reel thing

Zehetmair also leads his own string quartet. His skills as an ensemble musician appeared on CD late last year in the Beethoven *Triple Concerto*, in its second great recording of last year. Much as I loved EMI's, its successor, led by Nikolaus Harnoncourt conducting the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, is musically even more incisive. No one else has better bridged historically informed performance with modern instrumental forces than Harnoncourt, and he achieves a sound so distinctly Beethovenian it makes you reel.

Zehetmair, who wields a thinner but more laser-like tone here, is a true partner among equals with Aimard and Hagens. It ends up being no one's concerto but Beethoven's.

Under Harnoncourt, the concerto has a propulsive urgency I've never heard matched on recording



Zehetmair has a laser-like tone.

before. The soloists, all playing brilliantly throughout, are so completely woven into the fabric of the work as a whole that the impression this interpretation leaves is less one of an intimate musical conversation than of a large-scale orchestral work borne aloft by startling episodes of instrumental descants.

The sparkling account of the B-flat Major Rondo that follows sets the stage for the CD's clear destination: the *Fantasia in C minor* for piano, chorus and orchestra that Beethoven later reimagined as the triumphant finale to his Ninth Symphony. Its solo-piano opening, dispatched by Aimard with his usual flair, gives way to a movement that is a thrilling hybrid of piano concerto, symphony, and voices, both solo and choral (the fine Arnold Schoenberg Chor). Harnoncourt lends such cogency to the potentially unwieldy piece that you're left, a bracing quarter-hour later, thinking that there is no second-tier Beethoven. ▼

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From sublime to so-so

Lyrical concertos, melodies on flute

by Jason Victor Serinus

A wonderfully performed and recorded version of Sibelius' great Violin Concerto has arrived from Naxos. The soloist, Norwegian violinist Henning Kraggerud, is a winner of Norway's Grieg Prize. Playing the Guarneri del Gesù "Ole Bull" violin of 1744 with its only existing extra-long violin bow, he produces unfailingly lovely tone. The low tones are rich and full, while the highs are pure and sweet.

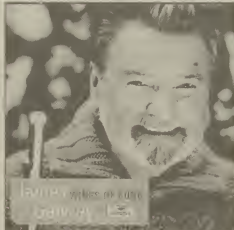


Emphasizing the lyrical aspects of Sibelius' concerto, Kraggerud eschews excessive vibrato and dramatic gestures to focus on the dark, brooding beauty of Sibelius' melodically lush landscape. The opening is gorgeous, Kraggerud's heart-touching entries supported by the resonant entry of trumpets, cellos and percussion.

The playing in the middle-movement adagio seems inten-

tionally restrained, the soloist avoiding showy, singing highs. After letting loose in the movement's grandly romantic conclusion, Kraggerud performs the final allegro at a notably fast pace. Everywhere, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra proves at one with the soloist.

The other works on Kraggerud's program provide nice counterpoint. Sibelius' Serenade in G minor and Christian Sinding's Romance in D major offer many moments of loveliness. Sinding's First Violin Concerto is hardly in the same league as the Sibelius, but it's pleasant listening fare.



Taking wing

Sir James Galway's latest release, *Wings of Song: Popular Classical Melodies for Flute and Orchestra*, augments a huge discography that documents the 65-year-old flautist at the height of his powers. If it does nothing to enhance his reputation, it certainly attests to the across-the-board

popularity he has achieved.

We discover a mix of such soothing classical stalwarts as Maurice Ravel's "Pavane pour une Infante défunte," Eric Satie's "Gymnopédie No. 3," an adaptation of the 2nd movement of Joaquín Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*, and a number of opera arias and classical art songs thrown into the mix. Anyone hoping for the passion and exalted spirit associated with such arias as Camille Saint-Saëns' "Mon coeur s'ouvre à ta voix" or Vincenzo Bellini's "Casta diva" has another story coming.

The pearly, ultra-smooth sound of Galway's flute certainly conveys the loveliness of these arias, but melodic sweetness is only one reason they are treasured. Another is because they serve as supreme vehicles for the expressive powers of the human voice. If Galway's flute can achieve such a level of expression, it certainly falls short in opera. The tone may be beautiful, but the performances are placid. Delilah could never seduce Samson with such languor.

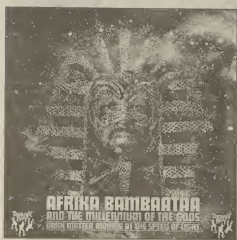
Where Galway does excel is in the duet with his wife Jeanne on Jacques Offenbach's beloved "Barcarolle," music that perfectly suits the dreamy tenor of their playing. Galway's rendition of John Denver's "Annie's Song" also scores in spades, as do the more serene of the classical instrumental adaptations. ▼

MUSIC

Hip hop to it

by Gregg Shapiro

As a gay, white male of a certain age — let's just say that shortly after graduating from college, I bought the first Run DMC album on vinyl, the day it was released — I've long struggled with how to write about hip hop. Occasionally misogynistic and homophobic lyrics aside, hip hop's role as the successor to rock may be in dispute, but there's no denying the way that it speaks to the young and disenfranchised with messages of hope and empowerment. For myself, it's the soundtrack to hours and hours of dancing.



A full-fledged hip hop dance party, Afrika Bambaataa's *Dark Matter Moving at the Speed of Light* (Tommy Boy/Zulu Nation) gets you to your feet on the first track and won't let you be still until the final track comes to a close. "Got That Vibe," featuring King Kamonzi, opens with a brush with Bollywood and will have you reaching for your finger-cymbals before you know it. New-wave trendsetter Gary Numan shares the mic with MC Chatterbox on the propulsive electroclash track "Metal," and King Kamonzi "shines the light" on the people who want to get up and dance on "Dark Matter." "Take You Back" promises and delivers the funk, and "Just a Smoke," featuring Mustafa Akbar, attempts to get you high.

It's a case of Beastie Boys to men on *To the 5 Boroughs* (Capitol), the sixth full-length album



by the trendsetting hip-hop trio. The album's centerpiece, "An Open Letter to NYC," an unabashed mash note to the Beasties' stomping grounds, has less of a dance vibe, but it still inspires the listener to move.

Bambaataa protégés De La Soul show off their dance moves and grooves on the compilation *De La Mixtape: Remixes, Rarities & Classics* (Tommy Boy/Rhino). The Badmarsh + Shri remix of "Me Myself and I" easily increases the high stakes of De La Soul's best-known track.

On Mos Def's "The Rape Over," from his album *The New Danger* (Geffen/Goodtree), he declares that "this rap shit" is being run by "quasi-homosexuals." As someone who also makes his living in theater and film, where he is certain to come into contact with more than a few homosexuals, quasi or otherwise, Mos Def would be wise to watch the antigay comments. If that posturing is meant to appeal to the rap-rock hybrid fans who will appreciate Mos Def's latest efforts, he ought to know that not all those fans are going to be heterosexual.

Raw weight

Worth Tha Weight (Def Jam) by blues rapper Shawwna (aka Rashawanna Guy, daughter of blues legend Buddy Guy) fills a couple of niches. First, she represents female rappers. Second, Shawwna is another voice from the Kanye West-ruled Chicago hip-hop scene. Missy Elliott joins Shawwna on the West-produced "What Can I Do." Ludacris ap-



pears on "R.P.M." with Twista, and on the Timbaland-produced "Shake Dat Shit." Shawwna is a welcome if somewhat raw voice on the scene.

The ubiquitous Kanye West makes an appearance on the track "This Way" from Dilated Peoples' most recent full-length, *Neighborhood Watch* (Capitol), a reminder of the value of West Coast rap.

UK hip-hop act Wiley incorporates the garage/two-step rhythms many first heard through the music of Craig David. "Pick U R Self Up" on Wiley's full-length debut *Tred-din' on Thin Ice* (XL/Beggars Group) wants you to "move your body," an offer that's hard to refuse. Most of the tracks here allow you to show off your fancy footwork, if you can keep up with the swiftly shuffling beats.

On *Bangzilla* (Scratch/Immortal), Mix Master Mike turns his turntables into time machines, transporting the listener to a distant era. His patchwork-quilt tracks will set more than a few pairs of feet and hips in motion. *E&A* (Rhymesayers/Epitaph), the second album by Eyedea and Abilities, is what you'd imagine a collaboration between freestyle MC Eyedea and record-spinner supreme Abilities might sound like. East Coast turntablists X-Ecutioners win for the coolest line-up of guest artists on their album *Revolutions* (Columbia). Adding to the dance fever are Blue Man Group, Ghostface Killah, Cypress Hill, dead prez, Fat Joe, Rob Zombie, and Slug (from Atmosphere). ▼

All for a good cause

Tributes and benefits out on disc

by Gregg Shapiro

If you didn't get the music you wanted for the holidays and are holding gift receipts, cards or certificates, now is your chance to put them to good use. Below are some wonderful tribute discs and equally wonderful benefit compilations, which you can do some good by purchasing.

The untimely passing of Warren Zevon in 2003 deeply affected music-lovers globally. Zevon was a singular songwriter with few equals. With the tribute disc *Enjoy Every Sandwich: The Songs of Warren Zevon* (Artemis), many of his fellow singer/songwriters acknowledge the loss. The disc includes "Searching for a Heart" by Don Henley, "Poor Poor Pitiful Me" by Jackson Browne with Bonnie Raitt (which suffers from too much Browne and not enough Raitt), "Mutineer" by Bob Dylan, Dylan's son Jakob doing "Lawyers, Guns and Money" with his band The Wallflowers, "Don't Let Us

Get Sick" by Jill Sobule (who toured with Zevon), "Monkey Wash, Donkey Rinse" by David Lindley and Ry Cooder, "Keep Me in Your Heart" by Jorge Calderon and Jennifer Warnes, and a live version of "My Ride's Here" by Bruce Springsteen. Among the album's surprises are Zevon's son Jordan (sounding eerily like his father) performing "Studebaker," Adam Sandler's rousing rendition of "Werewolves of London," and the Pixies' fitting interpretation of "Not that Pretty at All."

Various artists compilation *Hard-Headed Woman: A Celebration of Wanda Jackson* (Bloodshot) allows each performer to claim a song and give it its own identity. The women fare the best with rockabilly singer/songwriter Jackson's material. Kelly Hogan ("Right or Wrong"), Nora O'Connor ("Sticks 'n' Stones"), Neko Case ("Brown-Eyed Handsome Man"), Jane Baxter Miller ("One Day at a Time"), Laura Cantrell ("Wasted") and openly queer blues-belter Candye Kane ("Rock

Your Baby") are among the most notable of the hard-headed women.

You might think that British prog-rockers The Moody Blues would be an unlikely subject for a tribute by a bunch of Nashville bluegrass musicians, but then you'd be surprised by the results. I sure was. *Moody Bluegrass: A Nashville Tribute to The Moody Blues* (Rounder) consists of a dozen MB covers performed by such colorful bluegrass performers as John Cowan, Alison Krauss, and Sam Bush. For the most part, the transition is smooth. "I'm Just a Singer in a Rock 'n' Roll Band" and "Nights in White Satin" survive the experience unscathed.

The songs of Daniel Johnston, a contemporary outsider artist who struggles with chronic mental illness, are too difficult for some. *The Late Great Daniel Johnston: Discovered and Covered* (Gammon) is a double-disc set. On disc one, 18 songs by Johnston are covered by some big names in

page 40 ►

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OUT & ABOUT



DJ Earworm spins a guest DJ mash-up set at Bootie. See Saturday.

Calendar by Mark Mardon

Predictions

Tommi Avicolli Mecca will finally hit his stride as a playwright, but he'll always be known as "that queer activist from Philly."

At last party promoter **Ggreg Taylor** will be recognized as the true civic treasure he is, and will finally drop the "it boy" baggage he's been carrying since Club Uranus days.

Rock columnist/DJ **Don Baird** will finally give up hard drugs and embrace Christian rock.

"Mash-up" DJs **Adrian Roberts** and the **Mysterious D** will wrest control of Burning Man from Larry Harvey and turn it into a huge *Bootie* party. *Piss Clear* will become the official BM rag.

Heklina will embark on a career as a serious actress. Seriously! **Pepperspray** vocalist/keyboardist **Peggy L'Eggs** (Matthew Simmons), who helps people with their orgasms as a Body Electric instructor, will achieve fame for her sensitive fingers.

Chanteuse **Veronica Klaus** will become an MTV sensation. **JT LeRoy's** punkish band **Thistle LLC** will be recognized as a great band with great lyrics, but will never be an MTV sensation.

Singer/songwriter **Mark Weigle** will become a Nashville sensation. When that town goes queer.

Singer **Connie Champagne** will achieve fame by switching from Judy Garland impressions to channeling Britney Spears.

Spencer Day will have a hard time going incognito after his original musical premieres at New Conservatory Theatre Center, and he'll be constantly mobbed by fans chasing his autograph and grabbing for articles of clothing.

Garrin Benfield will be the new Phish.

The underground music scene will be captivated by a new album titled *Troubled Times* by young singer/songwriter **Holcombe Waller**, who just fled the foundering SF scene for fruitier fields up in Portland.

Pioneering trance-music DJ **Keshav Jiwnani (KJ)** will finally be allowed to stay in the U.S., rather than being deported back to Pakistan and certain persecution as a queer Hindu in a straight Moslem country.

Cameron Eng will be recognized as a great actor and theatrical producer, and will live a long and happy life with hubby **Terrence Alan** while also becoming a screen star (and not just in one of Terrance's home-made videos).

"Viva Variety" Showman extraordinaire **Steve Murray** will live up to his billing as "the new Ed Sullivan," developing a hit TV variety show with a strong queer bent.

A new queer rock band will debut in San Francisco that *doesn't* have **Peter Fogel** on guitar.

A new queer anthology will appear that *isn't* edited by the flamboyant yet industrious **Mattilda**. By that time she'll have given up sex work, sailing on the success of her novels, leaving her tricks to fend for themselves.

Artist **Mitcho** will receive a huge grant to work with queer youth, helping them blossom creatively, in recognition of his unrivaled service to the GLBT arts community.

Drag diva/DJ **Juanita More!** will have one of her best years, with a long run of good health and much acclaim from her fans.

Photographer **Dan Nicoletta** will finally get that Harvey Milk bust he's been wanting installed in City Hall.

After toiling unselfishly behind the scenes as an event organizer and literary diva for years, **Larry-bob Roberts** will be recognized and rewarded for his music skills.

Young writer/actor and all around good guy **Kirk Read** will produce a best selling novel, becoming the next hot literary item, and will end up in Hollywood with a dog, cat, boyfriend and a Beemer. He'll wind up with an Oscar® for his screenplay.

Fri 7

Sharon McNight's Cabaret 101

@ **Michael's Octavia Lounge**
Grand Opening: Michael's Octavia Lounge & Cabaret Showroom presents "Cabaret 101" — An Introduction to Cabaret by Professor Sharon McNight, BA, MA, & BS, covering the history of Fanny's, Truinity Place, and Chez Jacques in an evening of song and dish, with Michael Grossman at the piano. \$20 cover w/ \$10 food or beverage minimum. 6-8pm. Also on Fri, Jan. 7, 14, & 21 at 9pm; Sat. Jan. 8, 15 & 22 at 9pm; and Sun., Jan. 9, 16 & 23 at 3pm (brunch served 10:30am-3pm). Located directly across Market St. from Martuni's.

Juice @ Jon Sims Center

Juice, part one, curated by Sarah Moss. A multi-disciplinary performance bringing diversity to the stage with insight into the deep personal juice(y) stories of the artists. Featuring poets Marie Kazalia & Charselle; cabaret sensation The Indra; Liminal Dance Theater; The Kook Troupe; Jenice Acosta & Movers (JAM); Pappas + Dancers; Spirit Soul Tapper Edward Jackson; hip hop collaborators Jenni Updenkelder with Infinite; and modern choreographer Aura Fishbeck. \$15-\$20 sliding (NOTAFL0F). 8pm. Also On Sat., Jan. 8. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & S. Van Ness). Info: www.jonsimscntr.org

Making Motion @ The LAB

Opening reception: The LAB presents *Making Motion*, a cross-disciplinary group exhibition fusing movement with mark making. Curated by Kristen Chappa. Featuring visual artists/dancers Olivia Brown, Anastasia Faiella, Sheila Ghidini, Regina Gilligan, Jennifer Kent, Susan Maxwell, Marc Morozumi and Lezli Rubin-Kunda. These marks these artists make are an investigation and visual record of time and action. Free. 6-9pm (performances begin promptly at 6pm). Exhibition runs thru Jan. 22 (Wed.-Sat., 1-6pm). The LAB, 2948 16th St. (at Capp). Info: 415-864-8855; www.thelab.org

Beach Blanket Babylon

@ **Club Fugazi**
Steve Silver's *Beach Blanket Babylon* begins its new season tonight, continuing the nation's longest running musical revue packed with hilarious songs of pop culture, spectacular costumes, outrageously gigantic hats and one show-stopping number after another. Snow White continues her fast-paced musical journey around the world in search of her "Prince Charming," along the way encountering George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Condoleezza Rice, John Kerry, Teresa Heinz Kerry, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Britney Spears, Paris Hilton, Donald Trump, Bill Clinton, Martha Stewart and a many more. \$25-\$75. 7pm & 10pm Fri. & Sat.; 8pm Wed. & Thu. 1pm & 4pm Sun. Club Fugazi, 678 Beach Blanket Babylon Blvd. (Green Street). Tix: 415-421-4222; beachblanketbabylon.com

TeMA @ El Rio

KARMA presents TeMA, offering the best in World Music with DJs Garcia (KARMA, The Endup) and Suresh (Six Degrees Records) spinning the hottest Salsa, Samba, Desi Beats, Dancehall, Reggaeton, Afrobeat, Hip-Hop, Bhangra, and House! Hot Go-Go Dancers. Hookas on the patio. New Outdoor Heaters. All Nations and Persuasions Welcome. Free before 10pm, \$5 after. 10pm-2 am. El Rio, 3158 Mission St. Info: 415-282-3235; www.elriosf.com

'Poetry & Pizza'

@ **Escape From NY Pizza**
"Poetry and Pizza," a literary/culinary combination with featured readers Sholeh Wolpe and Michelle Tea. Wolpe was born in Persia but lives in Southern California where she owns a small company, ZyQuest, and is the director and host of Poetry at the Loft. She's the author of *The Scar Saloon*, from Red Hen Press. Michelle Tea is a local literary diva; her latest poetry volume is *The Beautiful* from Manic D Press. \$5 donation (benefits Dimensions Health Services For Queer And Questioning Youth). You also get free pizza. 7:30pm. Escape from New York Pizza, 333 Bush at Montgomery (Montgomery BART or Sutter/Stockton Parking Garage). Info: www.poetryandpizza.homestead.com

Sat 8

Off-Market Disklavier

@ **Off Market Theater**
C.A.F.E. Presents "Off-Market Disklavier." Five Bay Area composers present works

written for the Yamaha Disklavier, a modern-day player piano capable of interfacing with a computer. Composers include Pamela Z, Jaron Lanier, Dennis Aman, Vytautas Germanavicius, and True Rosaschi presenting works for solo Disklavier as well as pieces accompanied by flute, Virtual Reality Environment, saxophone, live electronics and more. \$12. 8pm. 965 Mission at Fifth St. Tix: 415-896-6477; www.cafearts.com

Bootie

@ Cherry Bar & Lounge

Bootie — San Francisco's monthly mash-up bootleg party. Guest DJs: Payroll (U.K.) and Earworm. Resident DJs: Adrian, Mysterious D, Party Ben, and Dada. Queer Eye for the Straight Girl premiere party! Lots of fashion, beauty, lifestyle, and food giveaways! Midnight mash-up show, starring Lily LeRouge and Patty O'Furniture. Free Bootie mix CD to the first 50 people thru the door! \$7. 9pm-2am. Cherry Bar & Lounge, 917 Folsom at 5th. Info: www.bootiesf.com

sfSound Series/Lumin

@ ODC Theater

ODC Theater presents the premiere of *Lumen*, part of the "sfSound Series." This is the first evening in a series of three Monday events in January, February, and April. sfSound Series programs encompass the latest trends in conceptual art, music theater, and electronic sound into their live performances. Tonight's program: First half — Work by John Cage for percussion and electronics; work by Anton Webern; and recent music by composer Anthony Braxton. Second half — David Bithell's hour length piece *Lumen*, part trumpet concerto, and performance art exploration. \$12 general, \$10 student, 8pm. ODC Theater, 3153 Seventeenth St. Tix/info: 415-863-9834; www.odctheater.org

'The Rod' @ Underground SF

Opening night: Alcoholics Anonymous presents "The Rod," a new alterna-queer monthly (every 2nd Saturday) facilitated by DJ Bus Station John (The Tubesteak Connection) & Jeff Leopard (Smut Hut, K-Y). Groove to 70's/80's glitterleaze & discocheeze! Heavy cruising & hard hard cocktails! 1st drink free with 5 year sobriety pin (just kidding)! \$5. 10pm-2am. Underground SF (The Top), 424 Haight St. (btwn Webster & Fillmore).

Cream @ Space 550

"Cream," the huge new lesbian party for the Bay Area, every 2nd Sat. Three dance floors. Plenty of free parking. Lap Dance Lounge. The Cream Dancers. \$15 (\$5 off b/4 11pm with flyer/Web printout. 10pm-4am. 21+w/d. 550 Barneveld (btwn Oakdale & Industrial). Info: 408-792-3466; www.creamsf.com

Writers With Drinks

@ Make Out Room

Writers With Drinks: A fundraiser for other (www.othermag.org) the magazine of pop culture and politics for the new outcasts. Other #7, the Payback issue, coming early March! Featuring: Sandip Roy, Greta Christina, Laurie Fox, Sholeh Wolpe, Bridget Schwartz and Robin Burcell. All pro-

ceeds benefit other. \$3-\$5 sliding. 7:30-9:30pm show; doors open 7pm. The Make Out Room, 3225 22nd St. (btwn Mission & Valencia). Info: www.writerswithdrinks.com

Same-Sex Salsa Classes

@ Metronome Dance Center

Amy Little and Mita Salazar lead two four-week "Same Sex Salsa" classes beginning tonight. Level 1: 4-5pm. Level 1+: 5:30-6:30pm. Free practice 5-5:30pm for both levels. \$64 for four weeks (Jan. 8-29). Classes also offered Feb. 5-26. Metronome Dance Center, 1830 17th St. Info: 415-252-9000; metronomedancecenter.com

Wilde Chats

@ Three Dollar Bill Cafe

Wilde Chats, a gay men's discussion group. Meets every other Saturday, at 11am. Three Dollar Bill Cafe, SF LGBT Center. Explore the core questions and issues facing gay men in SF today. Look for hidden assumptions, embedded concepts, and differences that are sometimes not apparent in the problems we see. Come have a cup of coffee, relax and join in the fun. Info: Gay Men's Community Initiative at sfgmci@yahoo.com, or call 415-552-9399.

Queer Ballroom Party

@ Synergy School

Second Saturday Monthly Queer Ballroom Party at Synergy. 7pm West Coast Swing lesson; 8pm Rhumba basic lesson with intermediate moves. \$10 (under-21 free; Half off for Queer Dance Pass holders). Fancy attire suggested; comfortable leather soled shoes recommended. No partner or experience needed. These are Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans All Ages dances open to everyone. Synergy School-1387 Valencia at 25th St. Info: www.QueerBallroom.com

Comedy Improv Classes

@ CPMC's Davies Campus

Second Saturdays, Monthly Specialty Improvisation Comedy Classes. Come to just one or participate in them all! Today: Mask Improvisation (a la commedia dell'arte and greek comedy/tragedy). You provide the face and we provide the masks. Carla Hatley & William Hall. Classes are free as a community service of the BATS IMPROV School of Improvisation of Fort Mason Center. Participants are persons living with life-threatening, chronic disabling illness such as cancer, hep C, HIV/AIDS, kidney disease, etc. 12 noon-3pm. The Gazebo Room at CPMC's Davies Campus (Castro & 14th Sts.). Questions? Contact Jonathan Goldman, the Volunteer Director at LaughingStock@improv.org.

'Carl with Records'

@ Giorgi Gallery, Berkeley

Berkeley's Giorgi Gallery hosts "A Cocktail of Glamour and Anarchy," the fabulous Cockettes art exhibit and performance salon series. This afternoon featuring "Carl with Records," in which dream artist Carl Linkhart lets his freak flag fly in a zany performance of original song stylings set to vinyl. A must see. Carl has been writing original songs since childhood and came up with the idea of using recordings as background in 1970. Sometimes quirky, humorous, artful or dramatic, he matches his melodies from almost any genre, from elevator music to country, jazz, rock and world music. Free. 2-4pm. At Giorgi Gallery, 2911 Claremont Ave. (at Ashby), Berkeley. Info: www.giorgigallery.com

Sun 9

SF Hiking Club

@ Wilder Ranch

Wilder Ranch State Park, just west of Santa Cruz, has some of the most spectacu-



Choreographer/artist Remy Charlip leads movement and visualization at Berkeley's Giorgi Gallery as part of the Cockettes exhibit. See Sunday.



Professor Sharon McNight touches on the finer points of "Cabaret 101" at Michael's Octavia Lounge & Cabaret Showroom. See Friday.

lar ocean cliffs in this area. It's a moderate 10-mile hike with an 800-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: www.sfhiking.com

Green-Kahn-Zhong Trio @ Off Market Theater

The Green-Kahn-Zhong Trio will present the U.S. premiere of a movement from Steve Kahn's Trio, as well as trios by 20th-century composers Marko Tajcevic, Robert Muczynski, and the nearly 20th-century (1897) Alexander Zemlinsky. Featuring: Soren Green, clarinet; Steve Kahn, cello; Li-Qin Zhong, piano. 5pm. \$12. 965 Mission at Fifth St. Tix: 415-896-6477; www.cafearts.com Info: www.stevemusic.us

Gay-prov Jam @ Off Market Theater

Gay-prov jam—improv jam for LGBT (and friendly straight) folks. \$5 donation (NO TAFLOF). 8pm. Off Market Theater, 965 Mission at 5th. Info: www.cafearts.com

Faerie Music/Magic/Healing Salon

@ Giorgi Gallery, Berkeley
Mark Mardon hosts a "Faerie Music/Magic/Healing Salon" in conjunction with the Cockettes exhibition, "A Cocktail of Glamour and Anarchy." A peaceful ritual in a beautiful art space. Opening circle cast by shamanic healer/reiki master Dragonfly. Special guest artist/choreographer Remy Charlip leads fellow performers and audience members in graceful, energizing tai chi movement with qigong-style energy visualization; singing, spoken word and percussion by Sky; recorder & guitar music by Mardon with percussion and movement by Kirk. Vedic chants led by Lorna Dune (vocals/percussion/cello) and Yoga Daddy (Stuart Siegel, host of SF's Full Moon Chants). Audience participation in chanting encouraged. Bring sacred/magic objects for temporary altar. Faerie drag/glitter encouraged. Free. 2-4pm. Giorgi Gallery, 2911 Claremont Ave. (at Ashby), Berkeley. Info: www.giorgigallery.com

Mon 10

The Reading Room @ Off Market Theater

C.A.F.E. and Off-Market Theater present The Reading Room, a monthly series featuring readings from new works by Bay Area writers. January's featured writers: Jan



Stellar performers take part in the Women on the Way Festival gala opening at Dance Mission. See Thursday.

Probst and Judy Juanita. Combining an informal setting with serious intent, The Reading Room will present playwrights showcasing 20-30 minute segments of their work to an invited audience of community professionals and others interested in assisting the artist in developing the work further. The evening will be curated by director, playwright, dramaturg Roger Mrazek. \$5. 8pm. 965 Mission at Fifth St.

Clogging classes

@ Jon Sims Center

Learn to clog with the Barbary Coast Cloggers. Clogging is a fun American folk dance similar to tap dancing, but with a much more relaxed, bucolic feel. For men and women of all ages and dance abilities. 7:30-8:15pm Beginning Clogging; 8:15-9:15pm Intermediate Clogging; 9:15-10pm Advanced Clogging. All students welcome to attend any portion or all of the evening of dance instruction. \$20 for three week series or \$7 drop-in (NOTAFLOF). Studio #1 (top buzzer), JSC, 1519 Mission St. Info: www.barbarycoast.org

QComedy @ The Center

QComedy presents Monday Night Gay Comedy. Hosted by Scott Capurro. With Dolores Trevino, Erin Souza, David Guiney, Lisa Geduldig, Bob Douglas, Grace White, Nick Leonard, Ronn Vigh, and Bridget Schwartz. \$8-\$15 sliding. 7:30pm reception; 8pm show. SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St. Info: www.qcomedy.com

Tue 11

Rita Moreno @ Empire Plush Room

Oscar Winner, Emmy Winner, Tony Winner Rita Moreno returns to the Empire Plush Room for the first time in over three years. Fresh from her critically-acclaimed performance as Maria Callas in Berkeley Rep's production of Master Class, and her six seasons on HBO's OZ, this electrifying performer will take the stage in a return to her musical past. Runs Jan. 11-Feb. 6. \$40-\$50 plus two drink minimum. Empire Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix: 415-885-2800; www.ticketweb.com Info: www.plushroom.com

Viva Variety 45 @ ODC Theatre

New location: "Make It So" Productions presents "Viva Variety 45," a benefit for Shanti, at ODC Theater in the Mission Dis-

trict. The 45th variation of Viva Variety, now in its 6th season, is hosted by Steve Murray, "the new Ed Sullivan." As always featuring an eclectic mix of the finest performers, including: Chantal Carrere (comedy); Garrin Benfield (rock); Gerri Lawlor (performance art); Jascha Ephraim (pop); Kim Nalley (jazz); Printz Dance Project (modern dance); Velocity Circus (physical arts); and Will Franken (comedy). This show is a benefit for Shanti, providing education, practical assistance, and emotional support to people in need and sharing its 30 years of experience with organizations nationwide through its training and consultation programs. \$20 (\$12 seniors/students/physically challenged). 8pm. ODC Theatre, 3153 17th St. Tix: 415-863-9834.

Paying For It @ A Different Light Bookstore

Reading/book signing: Paying For It: A Guide by Sex Workers for Their Clients. With Greta Christina, Annie Sprinkle, Vic St. Blaise, Steve Mitchell, Cleo Dubois, and Liberty N. Justice. A collection of writing by sex workers and former sex workers men, women, and trans, giving advice to customers on how to treat sex workers so they like you more and give you better service. Free. 7:00pm. At A Different Light, Castro and 18th.

Timmy Spence

@ Trannyshack

Drag Dinosaur Timmy spence celebrates yet another Birthday with a night dedicated to the Dinosaurs of Rock. It's a night of '70s stadium rock! Peaches Christ fills in for Heikina this night. DJ Derek spins tunes. Mi\$S Chocolate at the door. \$7 cover. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). The Stud, 9th & Harrison. Info: www.heikina.com

Wed 12

Docent Training

@ Randall Museum

January Docent Training Session at the Randall Museum. Help city kids to meet, understand, and enjoy wild creatures and their natural homes. Docents handle and introduce live animals to kids and their teachers who visit the museum Tue.-Fri. mornings. During an eight-week training, docents learn animal handling techniques, natural history, biology and interpretive methods. Volunteers commit to working with visiting groups for two hours each week for at least six months. \$45 for nine-class series. 6-8:30pm Wed., Jan. 12-Mar. 9.

Thu 13

Women on the Way Festival @ Dance Mission

Gala opening night: Footloose presents the Fifth Annual Women on the Way Festival. A three-week program curated by Artistic Director Mary Alice Fry. Tonight: Circus Exquisite. Fala fundraiser and performance party with silent auction, sumptuous int'l food & drink, and interactive installations. Featuring Rocco Rique, Bekka's Frogland Orchestra, The Kook Troupe, Diamond Daggers, Hot Pink Feathers, Simone de la Getto, Aruna, HummingbirdWORKS, Mina Liccione, Erica Rose Jeffrey, magician Christian Cgagil, Jade Blue Eclipse, Emily Leap, Sonya Smith, Christopher Love, Lauren Steiner, Amanda Starr and Susan Voyicki. The festival runs Jan. 13-30, Thu.-Sun. \$15-\$20 sliding. 8pm. Dance Mission, 3316 24th St. (at Mission). Tix/info: 415-289-2000; www.ftloose.org

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Reading/signing for the comic How Loathsome with Tristan Crane and Ted Naifeh. An exploration of gender experimentation. The four stories in this book explore various aspects of SF queer/transgendered subculture as the characters drift in and out of a world of drugs and broken romances. Free. 7pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St.

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@ Eagle Tavern

Thursday Night Live at the Eagle presents the bands Limpwrist, Voetsek, Gary Floyd's Hard Again, and Panty Raid. \$6. 9pm. 21+ w/D. Eagle Tavern, 12th & Harrison.

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Reach out N Touch someone

Where Asia meets Polk Street for a dance and a drink

by Mike Sher and Mark des Jardins

If you want to reach out 'n' touch someone (or keep in touch with somebody), then the N Touch on Polk Street (near Sacramento) in San Francisco could be the right place for you — great drinks, dancing, and the chance to see lots of Asians. A gay bar since the '60s, the bar took on the name it is known by today in January 1974. In the 30+ years since, operations have become high tech, with their Web listing of ntouchsf.com as one example.

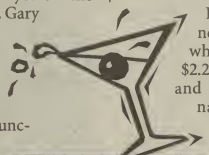
The N Touch has the reputation of being home away from home for Asians in the city. It's got

the reputation for being friendly to gay Asians, and you can see Thais swirling with Chinese swirling with Filipinos swirling with lots of round eyes on the crowded dance floor. Gary de Busk and his partner Rogelio Manzano, the current proprietors, run the business. Gary started as a bouncer with the bar in '91. In '93, he became their bartender; and he and his partner bought the business on August 1, 2002. Talk about working your way up.

Now, two years into their management, bartenders, DJs, bar-

backs and patrons all agree, good times can be had by all during their normal hours of 3 p.m. to 2 a.m.

During Happy Hour, it's a grown-up neighborhood crowd, when well drinks are \$2.25, and domestic beers and wine are \$2. With names for the Happy Hour bartenders like Gil, Savio, Carlos, Hector and Hoi, understandably there's an in-



In The Bars

ternational mix at the bar, with some of the staff representatives from exotic locations like Thailand, Viet Nam, and the Pacific Islands. It all translates into a grand cocktail of cordial faces behind the bar, and a realization that the next customer through the front door could as easily be from the Far East as from Europe, or a local. You're as likely to hear a call for a shot and a beer as for a Cosmopolitan during their Happy Hour, and a pool table is available then and most evenings.

But when the DJs are there and the music is beaconing people with a beat to the dance-floor in back, on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, there's intense dancing. Asians from the Bay Area and around the world gather, some in their Guccis and Armanis, and dance for all to admire.

Mystery date

The mystery of the bar remains the brown wrapping-paper-covered windows on the business next to the bar, "Expanding Soon: N Touch SF." When asked, Gary won't disclose any facts or specifics about their intentions in this regard. (We'll see.) Coming soon, to Polk Street near you!

Outside the front door of the establishment, the partners constructed a round wood seat, cir-



The mysterious sign in the storefront next to the N Touch: How soon?

cling a large, concrete-potted plant, and there the cigarette-smokers collect in their masses and smoke. Going into the bar, you're struck by the strikingly handsome young Asian men in posters and bikinis. I ask Gary if they frequent his bar. They're Los Angeles models, he tells us. Another myth shattered.

Once inside the bar, a coat-check option is available, used on busy nights like Friday and Saturday. The bar's a gay disco then, with Angel as DJ on Friday, and Feel DJ on Saturday. Dancing is also available, with Shawn DJ on Wednesdays. It's a rave crowd on weekends, and the sheer body heat generated by the crowd of dancers seems to melt inhibitions and worries away. Monday and Tuesday, karaoke is offered.

But Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening, the Asian scene dominates. Tita Aida of the API Wellness Center hosts Club T on Thursday nights, and part of the proceeds go to this worthy cause. Gay Asians pour into the bar on weekend evenings, devouring the dance music offered up by the DJs, transfixing the sounds through

their bodies into wave after wave of the variable, recurring beat.

The N Touch's annual Customer Appreciation Party in August, on their anniversary date, was grand. By invitation only, a luau was offered, serving roast pig and other island delicacies. Guests were given synthetic leis when they arrived at door-check. Gary and Rogelio intermingled with specially invited patrons. Hoi and Gil did the honors as bartenders, and this year's high point was clearly when all the staff removed their shirts, showing what might be offered a select few.

So if you're near the N Touch, you might want to drop in for a drink and see the neighborhood crowd during Happy Hour, or the diverse patrons of the evening and early-morning hours before the bar closes. As for what's going to happen to the front space next to the bar's Polk Street entrance, with time and patience everything can be known, Grasshopper. ▼

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Gangway

◀ Arts cover

Ross of the B.A.R., now up in Publisher's Heaven, hopefully. John Wise tells us about his background as a bar manager before coming to work at the Gangway.

Hearts broken

People who go to the bar say they like being treated like family. The bar itself was once heart-shaped, Wise tells us. Now it's sensibly in a crescent shape in the area beyond the front door, and before the pool table in the back room, with single bar stools lined around the bar for the customary face-off with the bartender of the moment. Their bartenders won't put up with loud or offensive behavior. There are limits to what's allowed at the Gangway. It's a respectable bar. But what stands out to the recurring patron is that it's always full of lots of different and interesting characters, with upcoming events and parties being planned. In this way, it maintains itself as a family-oriented bar and a fun neighborhood hangout.

The Gangway's on the circuit for the Empress competition, so don't be surprised by glamorously dressed and coiffed wannabes.

There are two large American flags inside, one near the front door and one next to the bartender's station behind the bar.



The prow of a ship that's going nowhere: the Gangway's facade on Larkin.

They seem to be a reminder that this bar is in America, the land of the free, where patrons have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. There's a grab-it gift machine in front, and a Jagermeister dispenser behind the bar. Come to the Gangway, and

you'll feel like family. Sukie, John and the gang will help you get your "sea legs." ▼

Gangway, 841 Larkin St., SF. (415) 776-6828. Open daily, 8 a.m.-2 a.m.

INTERVIEW

A&F model morphs into movie star

He's Channing Tatum, and he's coming soon to the Silver Screen

by Tim Nason

Channing who? Yes, Channing is his first name, and Tatum is his last. And no, he's not in any way related to Carol Channing — or Tatum O'Neal. Channing Tatum is his birth name, not just some wild name thought up in a duplicitous publicist's office.

You may not have known his name, but now that you do, it will be hard to forget. The boy's face and body have graced the pages of virtually every glossy magazine in the world, in Nautica, Aeropostale, Dolce & Gabbana and A&F ad campaigns, and on television in one of Mountain Dew's most popular commercials, "Drive." Now he is co-starring with Samuel L. Jackson and Ashanti in the movie *Coach Carter*, opening wide on January 14.

It's quite unusual for male print and television models to make the transition to the big screen, and even more surprising when they can actually, um, act.

Standing at six-feet, one-inch tall, the (almost) shaved-headed 24-year-old, with the most well-defined jaw I have ever seen, greets me with an outstretched hand, clenching mine firmly, staring directly into my eyes. "How are you? Channing Tatum," he says, as polite as he can be, entering the suite in which we share a breakfast on a recent Sunday morning at the Drake Hotel, during the Christmas shopping season in the Big Apple. Channing is not a native New Yorker, nor Los Angeleno. He is what he himself would describe as "white trash."

"Yeah, I am 'white trash,' by blood," he says, his piercing blue eyes glowing, trying to convey with his looks and charisma that the trash is long-gone. "I was born in Alabama, raised in the summers by my grandparents, Nana and Papa, in Mississippi. Then my parents decided to move to Mississippi to be closer to my grandparents. I was definitely an outdoors type of boy, getting into trouble all the time. But my Nana would always say to me, 'Oh, Channing,' when she knew I was feeding her a line of bullshit."

What were those lines of bullshit? Well, for starters, he was not supposed to be playing in the bayous. "There were (and still are) alligators, rattlesnakes, and Jesus knows what else in those swamps," he laughs. "I was always spending as much time as I possibly could down by the bayous, against the advice and, dare I say, orders of my Nana."

Civilized man

Channing Tatum has come a long way from the bayous. He might still be weathered and tanned, beautiful, "fuck-me" material, but the evolutionary process has taken hold. He's become more civilized during the many ad campaigns in which he has appeared, clothed in the latest fashions, groomed and to die for.

"I love modeling," he chimes, sipping a bottle of Evian and picking at a fruit plate, "but I loved making my first movie. I did an episode of *CSI* this season (I shot it after the movie), but the movie was the fucking bomb. I can see myself, at least part of the time, acting. I love modeling, but acting

is a great distraction."

Rumors abounded in the late '90s and early '00s that A&F solicited models on the street and didn't pay them. According to the rumor mill, A&F used their models as slave laborers. The models got free ink, and A&F got hot, young, tight-assed boys. "That's a

9/11.

"I know that modeling is not going to last forever, so I need to find something else that will keep me busy for the next 40 years," he explains.

"Coach Carter was such a god-send," he says. "I never, in a million years, expected to be cast in

'In Mississippi, I was definitely an outdoors type of boy, getting into trouble all the time.'

crook," says Channing when I ask him how he got involved with A&F. "I have an agent, and my agent got me that contract. Contrary to what the urban legend is, and lots of the queens in AOL chatrooms, A&F pays their models, they're not solicited in malls or in parking lots. They leave that to the government," he chuckles, referring to a scene in *Fahrenheit*

an MTV/Paramount collaboration. They're the partners behind *Save the Last Dance*, and that catapulted Julia Stiles to fame."

Is Channing Tatum destined to multiplex, name-recognition status? You be the judge. Do you think he's hot enough to plop \$10 down for one hour and 45 minutes' worth of pleasure on the big screen? ▼



He wasn't supposed to be playing in the bayou, where rattlesnakes lurked.

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Welcome the rooster

The 'Year of the Cock' is upon us

by Mister Marcus

The Year of the Monkey (2004) is almost history; on February 9, 2005, we officially embark on the Year of the Rooster, otherwise known in the Chinese Calendar as the Year of the Cock. This means lots of positive thinking and innovative ideas will be coming your way in the next 12 months, so don't let it bog you down as event after event looms on the horizon.

The Tsunami disaster in South Asia is predominant in daily news reports, and the leather community has jumped on the bandwagon to raise funds for the victims of this disaster. Fundraisers from coast to coast are planned from San Diego to Maine and from Boston to Texas. Too many are happening to list here, but know that the leather nation has taken a leadership role — again! — in the greater LGBT communities from coast to coast. Audrey Joseph, for one, is masterminding a huge benefit event for the Tsunami effort so stay tuned for developments. Hopefully, you'll all rally to the efforts in your community.

But life must go on here and abroad. The coming months will see a plethora of new faces, new titleholders, new events and innovative fundraising efforts. January, of course (January 14-16) is the big annual Mid-Atlantic Leather Weekend put on by the Centaur MC followed by Mr. Chicago Leather (January 28-30). The campaign towards Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2005 starts with Mr. Gauntlet II Leather on Sat., Jan 8th, Mr. Oil Can Harry's Leather on Sat., January 14, and Mr. Los Angeles Leather Bear on Sat., Jan 22 and Mr. Faultline Leather on Saturday, January 22. They are expecting 10 contestants this year at the finals the weekend of March 17-20;

Women will have a chance to "fool around" during the Mid-Atlantic Leather weekend when Glenda Ryder hosts a play party for leather/bdsm women at The Crucible on Sat. night, January 14th from 2100 to 0300 the next morning. There's a \$20 donation asked and it's billed as "the



Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt spent X-mas Day distributing toys to kids in Guerneville, California. She's seen here with a lucky young man enjoying just one of the many gifts he received.

biggest, baddest play party for women transgressors in the DC Metro area." For info, surf to: www.thecrucible.com.

Joey Arteaga steps aside from his Mr. Chicago Leather title the weekend of January 28-30 in the Windy City at the Touché bar. The contest is Sat. night January 29th but they'll also be hosting a meet & greet on Friday, a play party at the Bijou Theater. For more info, call 773-756-8165. Oh there's more, much more - so plan ahead if you want to get in on the action.

The IML 2005 saga

Some 30 IML contestants are on the roster already and more coming. IML Director Bill Stadt will not be attending MAL this year, but he reassures me that members of the IML Staff will be

on hand to announce the IML 2005 judges during a press conference at some point during the MAL weekend.

Of course, at least a dozen or so IML hopefuls will be there to find out who will be judging them in May. And they're readying for the Mr. Leather Germany contest in Berlin, too, which will take place on Easter Weekend. Three contestants have signed up already. No word on whether there will be a Mr. Fetish Switzerland or Mr. Leather Italy this time around, but plenty of contests are taking place before May 2005 both in the U.S. and overseas.

Calendar finale

The 2005 Bare Chest Calendar guys kiss their duties goodbye after this Sunday, January 9th when six more of them will go on the auction block for dinner dates (and lots of goodies!) at the Eagle

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Saturday, January 8

First out of the gate for Mr. Los Angeles Leather is the Mr. Gauntlet II Leather contest tonight around 2100. Nine more contests follow in the Los Angeles area until March when the finals will take place.

Sunday, January 9

Six Bare Chest Calendar men will be auctioned off at the Eagle Tavern at 1500 today with Lenny Broberg MC'ing. Don't miss this one!

Weekend, January 14-16

Mid-Atlantic Leather weekend in Washington, D.C. when "Tug" Taylor will step aside for a successor. Host hotel sold out. Be there!

Also Sun Bears Weekend in San Diego with all sorts of fun things to do including a side trip to Rosarita Beach and Mr. Bear San Diego 2005 contest

Saturday, January 14

Mr. Oil Can Harry's Leather contest at that fabled bar in Studio City. Eight more to go before the finals in March.

In Washington, DC, all women's play party at The Crucible during the MAL weekend. For ore information, go to www.thecrucible.com.

Saturday, January 22

Mr. Los Angeles Leather Bear contest at the Faultline tonight. Eight more to go before the finals in March.

Week of January 23-30

"Beef Dip" weekend in Puerto Vallarta Mexico with all sorts of activities and Tequila galore! For info, email to: Dsk4@aol.com.

Weekend, January 28-30

Mr. Chicago Leather Contest at the Touche' Bar, cocktail party, tour of the Leather Archives & Museum, play party at the Bijou.

Mr. Padlock Leather Contest in Phoenix but no word on the event.

Saturday, January 29

Mr. Faultline Leather contest at the Faultline tonight and the winner advances to the Mr. L.A. Leather contest in March.

Best of the boners

The Karrnal year in review, part 2

by John F. Karr

The best and the worst of last year's porno? I'm sure I can't tell you. I see only the merest portion of the innumerable porn movies made. But I can peer back over the year, and revisit the movies I did see.

But let me start with some movies I didn't get a chance to write about. While I wanted to explore more amateur porn, I was defeated by the field's rapid expansion. I can't keep up with it. I do know that a thoroughly comprehensive amount of it has been corralled by the distributors at PornTeam.com. This fully-illustrated site is home to several dozen companies. These range from my favorite, Defiant Productions (reviewed in the June 25 B.A.R.), to unmentionable barebacking companies, and on to the shoddy and stupid. My amateur-porn pet peeve: those middle-aged men who fancy themselves directors, but whose insipid questions and running commentary are more impediment than encouragement to the young cuties they've pinned before their cameras. Does the sexuality they're pursuing make them so nervous that they can't shut up?

Stephane Berry is a director who doesn't intrude on his subjects. A good representation of his ability to capture lusty moments is in *Best of Tony*. Tony's a sturdy young man with languid eyes, a nice build, huge nips and a big dick. This compilation of scenes from several of the movies he's been starred in finds him pleasuring himself on a dildo, and then in duos and trios with other young Frenchmen. I found Tony and friends rather stimulating.

The Movie I Needed to Hate:

MSR's *Rough Trade*. The dangerous eroticism of this portrayal of rape fantasies distressed me. I wanted to reject its East LA gangland queer-bashers, dialogue that impugns the masculinity of gay boys, and physical violence that's harsh and far too real. When the attackers left their victim tied to the railroad tracks, all I could think of was Matthew Shepard. Yet the brutes ensnared me, par-



From Universal, Kingdome 19's collaboration with Henning von Berg.

tially because their own gay identity was unhidden, and, I'll admit it, because of their tats and bandannas and hot erections. This unsettling mixture of homophobia and hot sexuality should raise questions more than it does dicks.

Department of Mayhem: *Daddies & Pigs* and *Cum in Handy* are the first titles that director Wolfgang Bang has made for his new Red Eagle Films line of extremely

extreme sex films (fisting, dildo, piss), which you can find at SpunkVideo.com. Hot House movies have production values (their Hot Hand release *Strong-Armed 1* delivered Carlos Morales and Aaron Tanner in a memorable scene). Raging Stallion's are artfully made (see JD Slater's exercise in extreme butch, *Hard Sex*). But

none are as raw as Mr. Bang's.

Credit Where Credit is Due: Co-directors Brian Mills and Harold Creg don't bandy their names about. But their stuff for TitanMen.com is continually top of the line. In 2004, it was *Packers* and *Five Star*. Earlier titles, like *Carny*, *Exhibition* and *R.E.M.*, are classic.

Fully engaged

Director's Goals Achieved: Joe Gage began his career with three movies that became legendary. Although I'm sure there's more to cum, his *Bakersfield Station* and *Back to Barstow* duo for Titan are culminating achievements. Hypnotically paced and mesmerized by men's sexuality, this is filmmaking unique in the let's-have-more-product porn world.

Lap It Up: Ohmygod, oral cumshots are back. Both Factory Video and Raging Stallion have got 'em, at the performers' discretion. Tag Adams rang my bell with the

next page ►

Karnal Knowledge

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

from 1500 to 18 at the \$8 beer/soda bust. It all benefits the AEF. The past months for the calendar men has not been easy due to poor management by those "volunteers" and that one "paid" coordinator who made life for them as close to hell as actually being there.

Lenny Broberg will toss his acerbic wit around during the auction so it should be good for a lot of laughs. As always, a big crowd is expected. No word yet on when the 2006 contests will take place but for sure they will be held at the Powerhouse. For the past 10 years, the schedule for the coming contests has been out at least by mid-December, but seems like there's been another breakdown so stay tuned for the dates.

Up next: MAL weekend

All is in readiness for next week's first big leather weekend of the year. The Centaur Motorcycle Club's big splash plays out in Washington, D.C. and it looks like they'll break another attendance record in spite of the cold weather at this time of year. The host hotel, Washington Plaza, is completely sold out but the other three hotels still have accommodations but you better hurry. The weekend package price went up after January 1st and will go up again that weekend unless you buy your weekend package now. Log onto www.LaetherWeekend.com now and save a few bucks.

The year ahead looks promising for all concerned, so get out there and participate, volunteer and do your bit to make a difference. 'Til next week then, stay warm, dry and happy. Keep living, laughing, loving and volunteering. Just do it in leather! ▼



Here is "Klausz," one of the candidates for Mr. German Leather taking place in Berlin in March. Yes, it's heating up in Europe for the IML competition.

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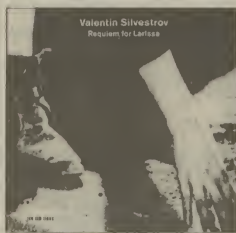
A Requiem for the disbelieving

by Tim Pfaff

Valentin Silvestrov's *Requiem for Larissa* (ECM New Series) was in my possession (and on and off my player) for a couple months before I stopped resisting it. Without disavowing my part in the odd dance, I now believe that the work itself makes you struggle to get in; that it's fundamentally about the struggle of accepting death. It exists so far out of normal time that it waits for a right time to find you. Silvestrov's is a reluctant Requiem, a Requiem for the disbelieving.

I commend it to anyone having trouble coming to terms with what the media, in its uncanny way of finding the summary statement, have finally deemed "the greatest natural disaster in history" — a practiced, polished, many-times-spun locution that tries to make the stench go away, to blunt the unimaginable.

I write just hours into 2005, in Bangkok, Thailand. Instead of the usual, rowdy New Year "cow-dow" (countdown) last night was "juttian," the silent raising of lit candles around the country in memory of the more than 2,000 people dead in this country alone, and the greater number missing. Returning to Silvestrov's Requiem yesterday,



Valentin Silvestrov
Requiem for Larissa

day, it seemed the most natural of utterances, its meaning utterly plain.

Given its origins, it's as apt for anyone facing a loss, however singular or personal — or all people facing their untimely deaths with dread. Have I left anyone out?

Silvestrov's wife, the musicologist Larissa Bondarenko, according to annotator Paul Griffiths the composer's "mainstay," died suddenly and unexpectedly in 1996 (in Kiev, their being Ukrainians, something word-limits give me no time for, beyond saying that it adds even more eerie timeliness to the release). He began work on the Requiem the following year, finishing it in two. ECM recorded it, with the National Symphony Orchestra and Choir of the Ukraine ("Dumka"), conducted by Volodymyr Sirenko, in 2001, but released it only late last year. Its

birth seems to have been as hard as death.

Except for a poem that bids farewell to the world (by Taras Shevchenko, the Ukraine's national poet in the 19th century), which comes relatively late in the work, Silvestrov hews to the standard Latin Requiem text, or as much of it as he can bear. It's pared down to the words, and sometimes mere syllables, he can get his chorus to utter. Instead of polishing or, especially, ennobling the words, Silvestrov lets his hard time getting them out not only show but also make this Requiem the wondrous work it is.

It's so far into the Introit that the chorus (until then, muttering word fragments over a full orchestra and solo piano that pounds out a low pedal point) finally intones the whole word "Requiem" that the catharsis is palpable, a threnody achieved and even earned. The potent next movement declaims only fundamental words — "Tuba mirum," "Dies irae," "Kyrie," "Recordare," "Sanctus" — infusing them with new power by their very truncation.

The Lacrimosa builds to moments of almost unbearably compressed power, superbly rendered by both orchestra and chorus. Then, just when we're ready for the expected soprano descant on

"Pie Jesu," it comes rumbling out of the basso profundo (which the composer specifies for his bass section).

Cloud burst

The first note of any balm whatever comes in the hushed, densely harmonic setting of Shevchenko's poem, a five-and-a-half-minute Largo of sublime consolation ("I shall come flying from the clouds"), drifting down like a glistening snow, cooling this desolate musical landscape.

Wind-sounds introduce the "Agnus Dei," during which the piano finally breaks free of its percussive duties to quote Silvestrov's piano piece "The Messenger," the last his wife was to hear. The penultimate movement's straightforward declamation of the text hints at acceptance, though the words still emerge in clumps, squeezed out between pregnant pauses and irregular, disconcerting silences.

The final Allegro moderato, largely orchestral, returns to the vacillation between floating sounds of consolation (bells and all) and menacing rumbles from the bass, including more low piano tremolos. The chorus all but whispers the finale's only words, "Requiem aeternam," once, while the synthesized wind-sounds get

the real last words.

Requiem for Larissa is not a difficult work in the usual sense. It's rarely astringent, and comprehensible on first hearing. Yet, because of what it is and does, it's a hard work to get into — and even harder to get out of.



Almost simultaneously, ECM has issued a two-CD set called *Silent Songs*, including a four-part cycle for baritone Sergey Yakovenko and pianist, and *Four Songs after Osip Mandelstam* with Yakovenko and the composer at the piano. "We feel we have always known these songs," Griffiths writes in one of his navel-gazing notes.

I don't know about that, but I do know that all five cycles are uncommonly potent collections of songs, and Silvestrov a pianist and composer to reckon with. ▼

Porn year 2004

◀ previous page

protein diet he gulped in *Pokin' in the Boys Room*. Taste of Things to Cum: Michael Brandon's new *Monster Bang* film, *Party in the Rear*, promises "more oral cumshots than any film ever made!"

Boner Book of the Year: King-dome 19 is the photographer who thinks an erection is the center of the universe. Nearly all of his artfully manipulated photographs of sleek, shaved European studs have one at the center. His new collection, *Universal*, a collaboration with photographer Henning von Berg, is the hard-on wonder of the year. Mesmerizing photographs.

Fall on Your Knees: And while we're on the subject, erection enthusiasts received Beatification by the Big Bopper during 2004 with

Joey Russo's stunning cock display, a highlight of Titan's *Bakersfield Station*, *Back to Barstow* and *Horse*. Okay, his Big Bopper isn't really all that big, but god, it turns its face straight up to heaven, and it pulses and seems illuminated from within. And Joey just leans back and lets that prick preside.

Best New Word: Apadravya. It's the pierce that puts a bolt straight through a cockhead, top to bottom. A little clunkier to say than P.A., and a little scarier to see, too. Cute blond terror Pete's got one in *ManPlay 17* and *18*. For further piercing news, check out www.tattoo.about.com.

Wild boys

Best 15 Minutes of Fame: Frivolous frat boys have fun with their dicks in three volumes of the instantly disposable *Guys Gone Wild*. Who'd begrudge straight



Best newcomer Joshua Adams

dudes your dickery?

Up Your Dildo: Paraphilia needs paraphernalia. 2004 was nearly bereft of terror by tit-clamps; you'll have to go back to Andy Dill's dilly of a scene in Titan's 2003 *ManPlayXtreme 2*. But it's been swell for rubber-toy lovers. Champion dildo-rider Nick Savage made a breathtaking debut in Chi Chi LaRue's *On Target*, Dick Wolf wagged a charming doggie-tail buttplug in *Skuff 2*, and both *Bolt* and *BuckleRoos* had duo dildo-buddies. My favorite: Carlos Morales, in the bonus scene of the *Hot House Screw 2* DVD. Squirmalicious!

Best Innocent Mormon Teenagers on their Mission Getting Seduced into Man Love: Not many competitors in this category.



Hot and sizzling Claudio Martin and Patrick Downs in *Raw Footage*.

ry. Marcus Iron is the crafty seducer in a delicious scene of the *Buckshot BuckleRoos*.

Best Porn Adaptation of a Play by Carlos Goldoni: Again, not much competition. *The Innkeeper*, with some sizzling Italian beauties, turned an 18th-century *commedia* into late-breaking *cumedia*.

Over, Finished, Done: Tag Adams. I've memorized his bag of tricks. Yet Raging Stallion gave bottoming dynamo Sean Storm a career resurgence simply by having him grow a beard. Any makeover suggestions for Tag? Also in High Danger of Losing His

Allure: Kent Larson. Can you say overexposure, Kent?

Best Newcomer: Joshua Adams. Please, Josh, heed the lessons above.

Best Tattoo: Montaz, in *Pokin' in the Boys Room*. It flows around Apollo's Girdle and right down onto his satiny pecker!

The Real Thing: Claudio Martin and Patrick Downs in *Rascal Video's Raw Footage*. Theirs is True Love, hot and sizzling. Other Memorable Scenes: Brad Benton and Paul Johnson in *There Goes the Neighborhood*, and Josh Weston and Kent Larson in *Kept*. ▼

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Benefit discs

◀ page 33

independent music, including T.V. on the Radio, Bright Eyes, Death Cab for Cutie, Beck, Guster, and Tom Waits. Disc two consists of Johnston's own versions of these songs, which he performs with heartbreaking sincerity.

Burmese mission

Benefit discs are plentiful. Funds raised from the sale of *For*

the Lady (Rhino), "dedicated to freeing Aung San Suu Kyi and the courageous people of Burma," benefit the nonprofit agency US Campaign for Burma. The double-disc set includes studio and live recordings donated by high-profile artists such as Ani DiFranco, R.E.M., and Indigo Girls.

Proceeds from the sale of *Genocide in Sudan* (Waxploitation/BMG), a 21-track compilation featuring work by Yoko Ono, Jill Scott, Danger Mouse & Murs,

Kinky, and System of a Down go towards averting that emergency. The title of three-disc set 46664 (46664/WSM) refers to Nelson Mandela's prison number. It's a 43-track live recording from the November 2003 concert created to raise funds for and awareness of the continuing HIV/AIDS pandemic. The performers include Beyoncé, Bob Geldof (who knows a thing or two about these types of events), Peter Gabriel, Bono and the Edge, Queen, and the Eurythmics. ▼

Downtown drag scene

Where the art of gender illusion thrives

by Mike Sher and Mark Des Jardins

In the depths of the Tenderloin, just a block from the police station, you can enjoy practitioners of one of the world's oldest arts, the art of drag. Aunt Charlie's, at 133 Turk Street, is also up-to-date, because it's got not one but two websites: www.auntcharlieslounge.com and www.hotboxxx-girls.org.

As you walk up, look at the colorful mural of dancers on the wall and its very appropriate motto, "Color the World in Harmony." Inside we talk to Joe Matheissen, who's been with Aunt Charlie's for seven years and knows what's what.

Aunt Charlie's used to be called the Queen Mary. How long the Queen Mary had been around is a matter of question. Some say since the '70s; some say the '60s. We guess the Queen Mary, like other true queens, is going to be a bit indistinct about her age.

Bill Erklens, who operated long gone but fondly remembered places like the P.S., Navy Bell, and Railway Express, bought the bar from the late Roger Hall, who used to own it and the Gangway on Larkin (before Sukie). He named it Aunt Charlie's in honor of Chuck, its first manager.

Walk in. Aunt Charlie's is a fairly intimate spot. In front are an ATM, in case you need cash for your libations, and a grab-it gift game. The bar stretches along your left, under a big neon "Aunt Charlie's" sign. On your right are a row of high bar stools along mini-tables. A variety of music wafts from the CD player, set on shuffle play. We heard everything from '40s to rock as we chatted with Joe.

The bar's back is where your attention should be on weekends. Friday and Saturday, it's drag per-



Vicki Marlane at Aunt Charlie's

formances. Included: Vicki Marlane, who's in all likelihood San Francisco's oldest drag performer, going on 70. She's been the Grand Marshal of the Freedom Day Parade. On November 12, the 26th anniversary of her sex-change, she threw what she called a "Pussy Party" in honor of the operation.

Pit stop

Another featured attraction is Kristy Cruise — she's been a past Grand Duchess and also a past



Friday hostess Gina La Divina

Empress in the Russian River area. She's the Saturday night hostess (Vicki Marlane stars), and Gina La Divina, who's billed as the "\$65,000 Silicone Wonder," does the honors on Fridays. Aunt Charlie's is a mandatory stop on the annual campaign for Emperor and Empress.

On Tuesdays, there's *Manny Shack*, where you can meet Reaganomix and Friends, and dance to a DJ. Thursdays, it's the Tubesteak Connection. Tubesteak has been recommended as being for "foxy persons of indeterminate gender looking for other foxy persons of indeterminate gender." There's a DJ, Bus Station John. Both nights have a \$3 cover.

While there aren't any happy hours as such, you can always get a Miller or Bud or, if you don't drink alcohol, an O'Doul's, for \$2.50. Canned Hamm's or Pabst is just \$2.25, and imports like Corona or Heineken are \$3.50. There's a variety of Stewart Soda for \$2.25, and Tejava Tea.

You'll find bountiful Thanksgiving and Christmas food spreads, and the bar does much for charity. Joe notes with pride that over \$15,000 had been raised in 2004. Charity beneficiaries include the SF AIDS Fund and PAWS.

A typical event was Felicia's Fundraiser for Instituto Familiar, a Latin AIDS education and prevention team. There was a raffle for a portable DVD player, and a mini-auction of a karaoke player and DVD player with 120 movies. Funds were raised, and a good time was had by all.

Is drag still a valid art form? Once there were lots of places presenting the glamorous, gorgeously coiffed girls, including Finocchio's of North Beach, where they did it for tourists from around the country. Now there aren't that many spots. Judging from the packed houses and cheering crowds on Fridays and Saturdays, drag is still very much alive and well at Aunt Charlie's.

So drag yourself down to Aunt Charlie's if life's a drag. Look closely, and the well-coiffed doll next to you may be a guy. ▼

Aunt Charlie's Lounge, 133 Turk St., SF. (415) 441-2922. Open Sun.-Thurs., Noon-Midnight; Fri. & Sat., 10 a.m.-Midnight. Drag shows Fri., Sat.; DJ Tues., Thurs.

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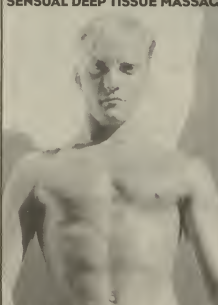
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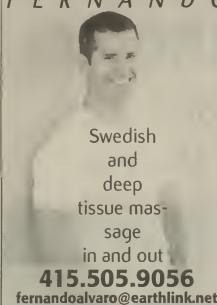
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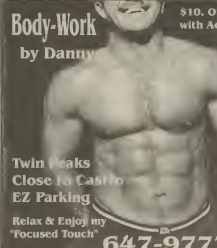
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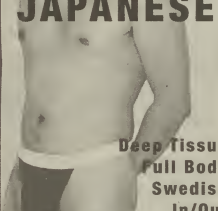
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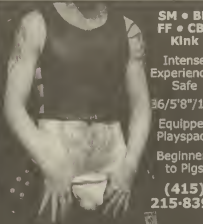
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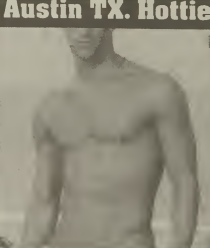
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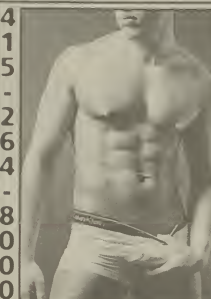
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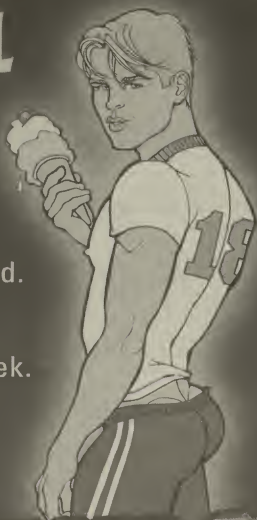
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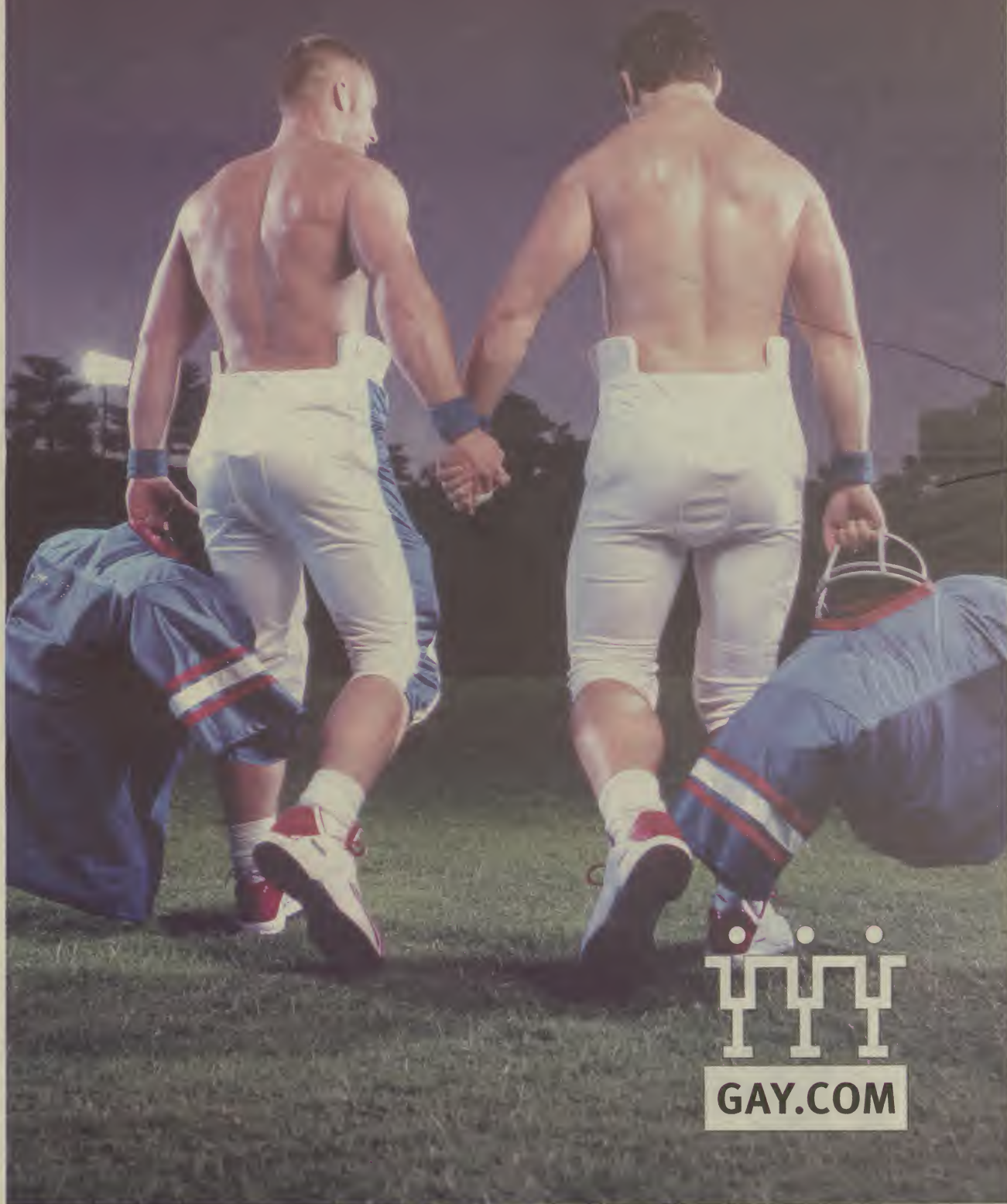
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